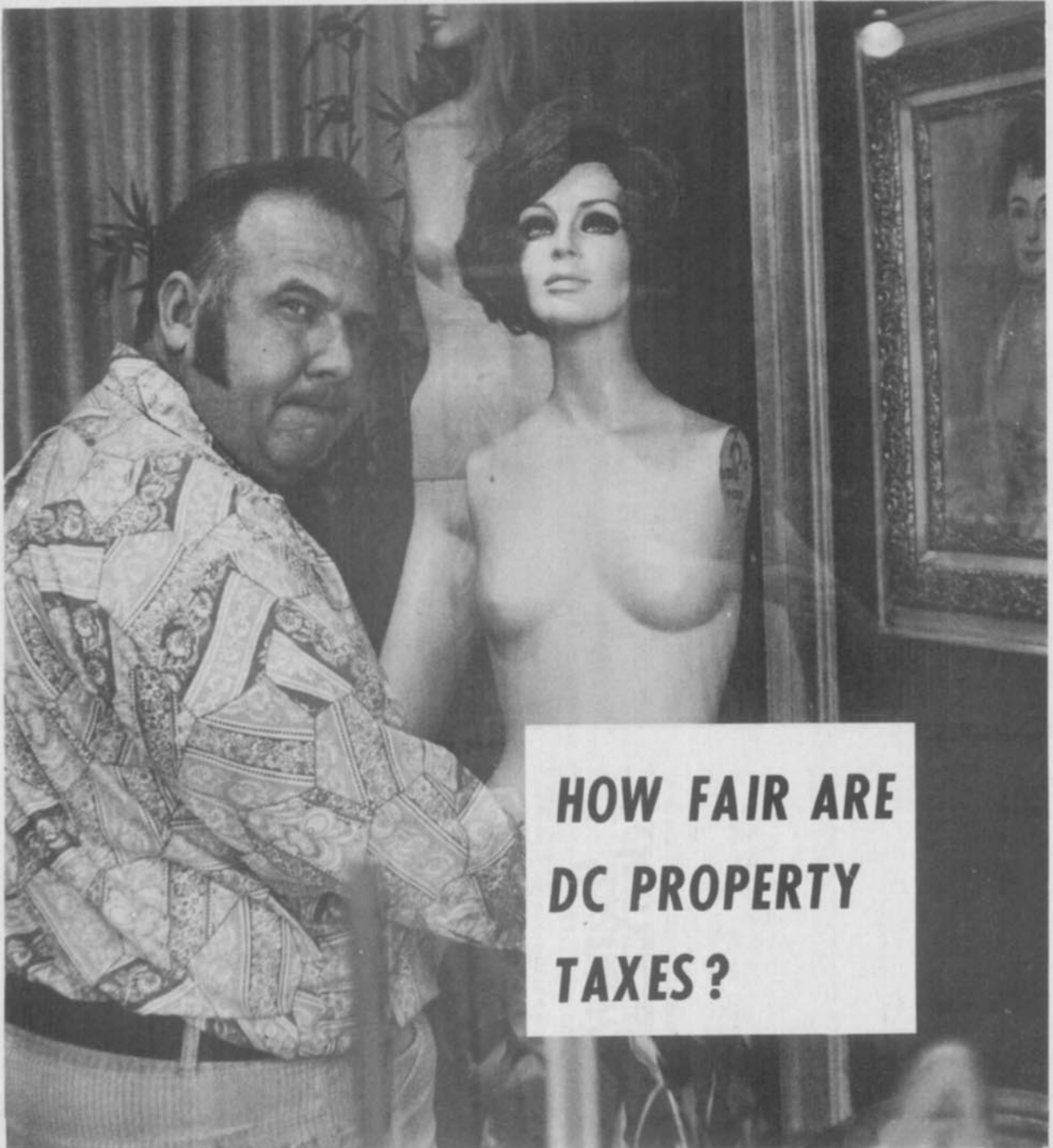




# d.c. gazette



**HOW FAIR ARE  
DC PROPERTY  
TAXES?**

**AUGUST 1972**

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# EYE ON DC

FOR THE INFORMATION of members of the City Council and the School Board: Under Florida state law, the conduct of public business in private, such as considering non-personnel matters in closed personnel meetings, is a criminal violation punishable by fines and jail. Caveat jiver.

THE CONVENTION: McGovern's a good man; he's got one of the nicest, most deserving constituencies around, but is that enough? While defeating the old pros, the terminal hacks sitting around waiting for euthenasia to be legalized, the McGovern people were also defeating a good portion of the Democratic Party. The righteousness over Daley et al carred more than a faint odor of political snobbery. McGovern may pay the price. . . AT TIMES I WONDERED: Is this the Democratic Convention or the Committee for the Reelection of the President? . . . THE ANDREWS SISTERS had a song that went "Don't Worry About Strangers, Keep Your Eye on Your Best Friend." . . . MCGOVERN'S SECRET WEAPON IS THAT HE is the first presidential candidate since Eisenhower who looks like the chairman of the Des Moines Kiwanis, the first one to speak American, the first normal man to be nominated in years. . . THERE ARE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE who don't give a damn about ideology; they look for answers in a candidate's face. The McGovern-Eagleton ticket may fit them like a two-year old pair of loafers.

BUT IS THAT ENOUGH? The McGovernites seemed to go out of their way to ignore or insult vital elements of the party: the south, the unions, the European ethnic groups. Nicholas Von Hoffman reports that McGovern's finance chairman was going around telling anti-Polish jokes...THERE WAS ANOTHER JOKE: that Daley was going to get back at McGovern by running the next election honestly. However much we may wish it otherwise Daley is Chicago, not Jesse Jackson. Democratic representation is not a matter of morality, it's a matter of votes. The McGovernites with their quotas (none of the reformers bothered to find out whether Poles were underrepresented at the convention), seemed less interested in democracy than in establishing an aristocracy of selected minorities and their more comfortable boosters. Thir-

(Please turn to page 8)

# d.c. gazette

VOL.III NR.21  
AUGUST 1972



## How fair are DC property taxes?

JOHN CRANFORD

THE United States Postal Service recently announced that it had purchased the L'Enfant Plaza West building for \$29.8-million. The Senate Public Works Committee has voted to purchase the old site of the Providence Hospital in order to erect a school for congressional pages. The price for the school site will be \$1.4-million.

Thoughts on federal spending aside, the two property acquisitions raise several interesting questions concerning the city's property tax situation. Neither parcel was assessed at a figure close to the selling price.

The DC tax office attempts to assess commercial property at 60-65% of its fair market value. Property tax officials pride themselves on their smooth-running administration, and the fairness of their assessment office. The chief of the property tax office, John Rackham, insists the District has "the most equitable assessment program of any city or municipality in the United States."

The question may well be, "Equitable for whom?"

The L'Enfant Plaza West building was assessed in 1971 at \$7.5 million. The building was complete in July 1971 and reassessed three times since then at six-month intervals. The assessment increased to \$8.35-million as of Dec. 31, 1971, \$10.35-million as of June 30, 1972, and \$12.35-million as of Dec. 31, 1972.

The final assessment figure was computed on June 28, six days after the sale was completed to the postal service. But at no time has the assessment approached the 65% figure

suggested by the tax office. At the time of the building's last assessment prior to the sale, the assessment was only 35% of the selling price.

The Providence Hospital site, purchased in 1962 for \$670,000 is assessed at \$332,644, only 24% of the probable selling price.

A look at residential assessments in the city indicates something amiss here as well. A Gazette survey, which included over 200 residential transfers during last January and February and their corresponding assessments, indicated on the surface that the tax office was keeping residential assessments equitably distributed - with several glaring exceptions.

The property was broken down into categories based on selling price. Of the five groupings, \$100,000 plus, \$75,000-\$100,000, \$50,000-\$75,000, \$25,000-\$50,000, and below \$25,000, only the last one with an average assessment of 58.4% seems out of line with the others. The other four groups averaged between 44 and 49%.

The Gazette also checked properties purchased by the Redevelopment Land Agency and Metro. The figures for Metro averaged 46% and RLA's averaged out to 52.4%, reflecting RLA's purchase of many houses in the higher-assessed under-\$25-000 bracket. There were only 6 purchases by Metro during this period (against 70 by RLA) and while the average assessment was 46%, four out of six purchases were assessed at between 12% and 41%, suggesting that a further look at Metro purchases might be in order. Is Metro paying too much for the properties it acquires?

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COVER: F Street Window  
Jo Tartt



Rackham says that, while residential property should also be assessed at 65% of market value, in actuality his office aims at a figure of 55%.

The figures in this survey, computed from Lusk's Assessment Directory, 1971-72 edition, as well as from figures from the assessor's office, seem to indicate that either the two properties (L'Enfant Plaza and Providence Hospital) were under assessed by the tax office, or the government is willing to pay substantially more than the market value for the property.

Rackham, when asked about the L'Enfant Plaza transaction, could not believe that the property had been under-assessed. "Of course there is nothing irregular with L'Enfant Plaza," Rackham stressed.

Rackham explained the disparity in the L'Enfant Plaza assessment and the selling price as a result of time lag and the possibility of other items being included in the sale other than the building, such as internal fixtures still to be installed. He also said the six-month increments by which the assessment increased from January 1971 through this December could be indicative of internal construction undertaken after the building shell was completed. "Often the completion date of a building does not mean the building is ready to be occupied," Rackham said. "Many times wiring and dividing walls are installed after completion date of a building."

Rackham also said he hoped the Gazette would not hint at any irregularities on the part of his office, which could in fact be contributed to a misunderstanding of the intricacies of the situation.

Information from a spokesman for the Postal Service, however, indicates that Rackham's conclusions on the purchase price of the building were inaccurate. According to the Postal Service, the purchase price included only the building and improvements which had been previously installed by tenants occupying 142,000 sq. feet of the building. These improvements would have been taxable.

Rackham's insistence that his office made every effort to keep up with assessments appears questionable if the Postal Service did not purchase any non-taxable assets in the deal.

At the time of the sale the building was assessed at \$10.35 million, only 35% of the price agreed upon by the Postal Service and L'Enfant

Plaza Associates. Six days following the sale the building was reassessed at \$12.35-million, a substantial increase, but still shy of the 65% figure which Rackham desires.

Rackham also said he was sure the assessor was unaware of the selling price of the building, even though the Washington Post had run a story on June 23, the day following the sale, giving full details.

The Providence Hospital parcel, owned by Providence Associates (parking and real estate investors Dominic Antonelli and Kingdom Gould, Jr. of PMI) is a vacant lot. The lot was intended for use as a temporary free parking facility for visitors to the Capitol until a school for Capitol Hill pages could be built. Capitol Hill residents opposed the idea so fiercely that the

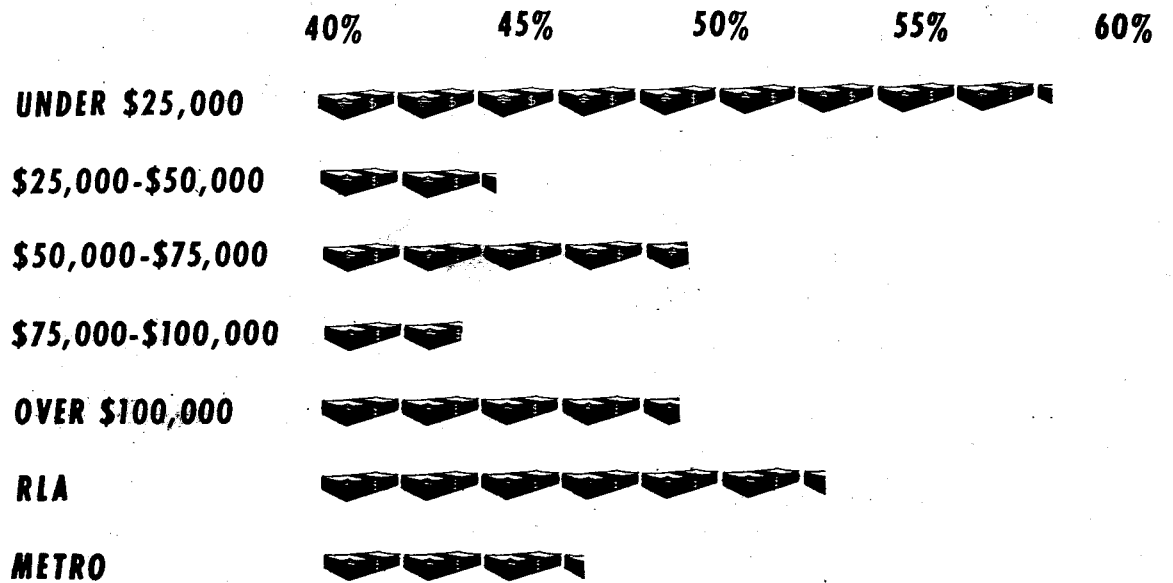
Senate Public Works Committee, who okayed the purchase for the school, rejected the parking lot plan.

Nonetheless, according to a story in the June 30 Post, Antonelli and Gould stand to make an 87% profit on the land even after expending \$55,000 to remove buildings previously constructed, and figuring their yearly tax bill.

In 1968 the Architect of the Capitol hired two separate evaluations of the land value, which were reviewed by the appraisers in 1970. The appraisals set the market value at \$1.4-million. The tax office assessment remained at a much lower level, however.

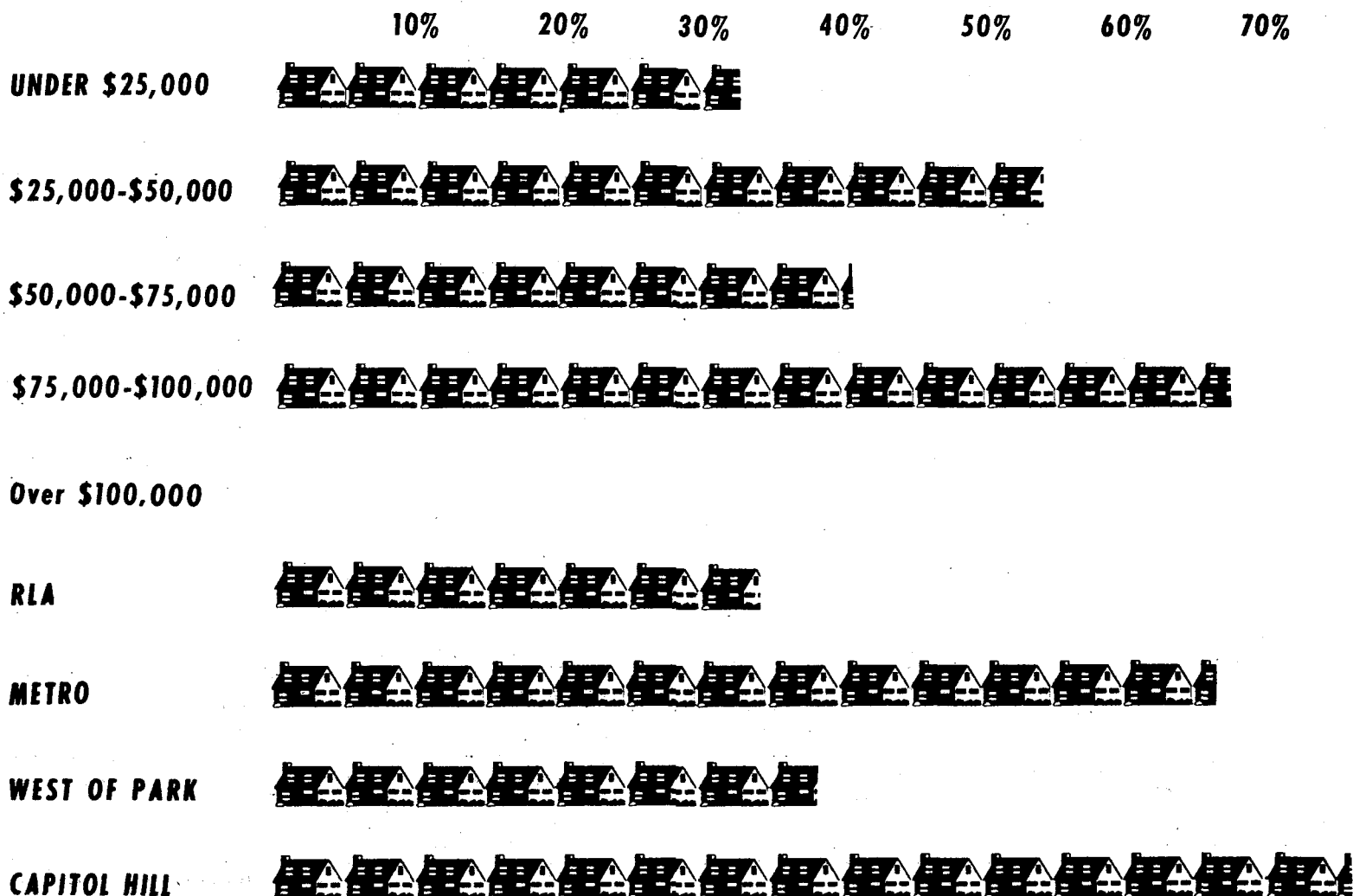
In the residential property survey the figures were also broken down into geographical distribution to determine if there is a pattern to

## AVERAGE ASSESSMENTS



THIS CHART SHOWS the average of all assessments in the survey conducted by the Gazette, broken down by sales price. Also included are purchases by the Redevelopment Land Agency and Metro. Although the District claims to be aiming for 55% assessment of all property, only in houses of under \$25,000 did it meet that goal, according to the survey.

## PERCENT OF UNDER-ASSESSMENT



THIS CHART illustrates the percentage of properties in each category found to be under-assessed by the Gazette survey. Only those properties assessed at less than 45% of actual selling price were listed, a conservative base since the DC assessor's office claims to be aiming at a 55% assessment. The chart shows a wide range of

exceptions. None of the over \$100,000 houses surveyed were underassessed and only 32.2% of the under-\$25,000 houses were. But 68% of the houses in the \$75,000-\$100,000 range and 76.2% of the houses on Capitol Hill were under-assessed.

assessments on a geographical line. Two results were noted: in Northwest Washington, west of Rock Creek Park, 38% of the property had been substantially under-assessed, but on Capitol Hill 76% of the assessments were low. We set the cut-off figure for a "good" assessment at 45%, 10% below the figure set as a guideline by Rackham's office.

Rackham said the market west of the park, especially in Georgetown, moves so fast that it is impossible to maintain an adequate assessment rate. He added that an assessor is on the job continually in the area and can not keep up with the market.

Rackham says the same holds true for Capitol Hill, but claims the Gazette's figures are exaggerated. He said he could not see how the situation on Capitol Hill could be that far out of line. Rackham did concede that it is almost impossible for his office to stay ahead of the market.

The DC assessor's office is currently operating on a two-year assessment cycle. The operation is becoming substantially computerized, but much of the work still involves manpower, according to Rackham.

Because of the two-year cycle and a further time-lag due to the fiscal year Rackham says the tax office is nearly as caught up as possible. The time-lag is a result of assessments being filed on January 1, and accepted into the tax rolls the following July 1. The assessments are then used for two years for billing purposes, creating a 30-month lag in most assessments.

This 30 month period between assessments is the cause of most discrepancies between assessment and market value, according to Rackham. It does not, however, explain discrepancies between one class or area of housing and others.

While Rackham could not offer a reason for the greater number of low assessments on Capitol Hill than elsewhere, he did infer that extraneous items could be involved in the figures, throwing them out of line.

One additional item indicated by the low assessments was the average assessment on Capitol Hill as compared with west of the park. West of the park the average assessment came very close to an acceptable figure, while on Capitol Hill the figure dropped to 40%.

The question of the low assessments on Capitol Hill has been attributed by some sources to residents not maintaining the outside of their homes, and not allowing the assessor inside, thus forcing down the assessment.

Rackham admitted that assessors throughout the city are not allowed inside on occasion, and occasionally they refuse to go inside, but felt the idea that residents purposefully made their homes appear to be worth much less than their value was false.

He could not supply an adequate explanation of the Capitol Hill situation, however, except that "it simply is not that way."

They certainly were that way, however, last January and February. A house in the 900 block of East Capitol Street was assessed for only \$13,523 but sold for \$89,500. Another house in the same block was assessed for only \$13,223 but sold for \$65,000. And a house in the 800 block of Independence Avenue SE was assessed for \$14,313 and sold for \$56,000.

Perhaps the greatest indication of problems in residential assessments can be seen in a breakdown of residential transfers by selling price.

While residential property in the four categories above \$25,000 seem in line with the 55% figure (allowing for inflation over a two-year period) property selling for less than \$25,000 was assessed about 10% higher than the rest. The average assessment for this category was 58.4%.

Some of this increase, but only a small amount, can be attributed to a greater number of auction sales in this category of dwelling, but it would seem that on the whole this property is given much higher assessment than more expensive housing.

The lowest assessment figures were found in property selling for \$75,000 to \$100,000. The average assessment in this category was 43.7%, quite a bit lower than the lowest grouping of property. It should also be noted that 68% of the housing selling in the \$75-100,000 bracket was assessed below the 45% mark.

There is no apparent pattern in low assessments as the selling price of property increases,

## A need for hearings

AS property taxes continue to rise in the District, the question of fair assessment becomes increasingly important. John Cranford's report on local assessing practices suggests the need for early hearings on both the fairness of present assessment and the nature of the property tax itself. The Gazette calls on the City Council to bite the bullet on this issue — one that it has too long avoided. It has voted property tax increases — the major taxing power it possesses — without giving local citizens the opportunity to speak on the issue. Without a chance for review, inequities in the system will mount with the tax increases. Here are a few of the crucial issues that should be considered at long overdue hearings on the subject:

### ASSESSMENT ISSUES

. Why has the city declined to assess property owned by local magnates such as PMI and the L'Enfant Plaza combine at a fair percentage of market value?

. Is the city regularly over-assessing the homes of lower income DC residents, as the Gazette survey suggests?

. Why are there so many exceptions to the proper assessment in certain classes of housing and certain locations? Is the District, for example, subsidizing the Capitol Hill restoration movement through underassessment?

### TAX ISSUES

. Why shouldn't DC have a progressive property tax, with higher rates for those who own more property?

. Why shouldn't the District have regulations that provide for the recapture of taxes lost through underassessment? This recapture of taxes could take place at the time of sale of property that has benefited from a speculative increase in value through private or public action.

. Why has the city been so reluctant to press for an end of the granting of tax exemptions to privately owned properties of charitable, educational, religious organizations — exemptions that add 15% to each DC homeowner's property tax bill? Under the present system, for example, the presence of the International Bank in Washington is costing the city a half million dollars in lost property taxes annually, and the Brookings Institution over a \$100,000.

UNDER the present system individual homeowners are paying far more in property taxes than they would have to were the tax system more equitably assessed and taxed. There should be no more property tax increases until we find out what we really should be paying.

however. Dwellings selling for over \$100,000 had an average assessment of 48.4%, and no property in this category was assessed below 45%.

It seems to be to the credit of the assessor's office that assessments are as close as they are to the proper level. Although there is no explanation for the higher figures in low-cost housing, the situation seems to be a general occurrence across the country. Rackham was reasonably certain that the figures for the low-cost housing were highly distorted, and not representative of the DC situation, however.

At best, the property tax is a confusing issue to investigate. Everyone has his own theories and everyone offers suggestions. Rackham contends that the DC assessor's office is the best in the country. It may well be, but the tremendous spread among assessments in the District seems to show a need for improvements.

Assessments in the Gazette survey ranged from 15% to 115%. The upper limit can be explained as a result of foreclosures, but the significant point is that no one class of dwellings was found at any one assessment figure except for over \$100,000 houses. Throughout the survey assessments were found over the entire spectrum.

At least one official is concerned about the condition of the tax system in the District, but admittedly only recently in his case.

City Councilman Tedson Meyers is currently examining the property tax as it affects low income people, and the city as a whole. In the process Meyers has discovered at least one instance of negligence on the part of both the tax office and the council.

In 1967 the council passed an administrative procedures act, aimed at organizing the bureaucracy, and providing recourse to citizens in the case of injustice. The act requires that all rules and regulations for the District government and its agencies be published in the District Register before they become effective. There are no published regulations for the property tax office regarding assessment procedures or any other function of the office.

Theoretically, the District has no right to issue property tax bills, nor do residents have to pay. In an interview, Meyers admitted discovering this fact only five weeks ago and says he plans to hold hearings on the matter in two months.

Meyers said he did not intend to question the finance office, or its chief Kenneth Back, until after the current bills had been sent to property holders, reasoning that Back had enough problems to complete that task.

Meyers is in the process of developing a proposal to send to the council providing changes in the current tax basis. The proposal would call for assessments to be based on land value rather than improvements.

This "site-value" proposal, known as the "Australian method," would mean increased tax payments on undeveloped property, such as parking lots. The emphasis on improvements in the current system allows open land to be taxed at a much lower rate than surrounding lots.

Meyers said he would probably ask that about 20% of the tax bill be based on improvements and 80% on land value, rather than 80% improvements and 20% land as in the current system.

Meyers also said his proposals could be enacted without the approval of Congress. "All the authority for this tax reform rests with the District government," Meyers said. According to the DC Code, the laws passed by Congress for the government of the District, the Commissioner has authority over the property tax office and its procedures.

Meyers also talked about the possibility of a "progressive" property tax for the District but expressed pessimism over the possibility of such a system for the near future. "The DC Code is very specific about calling for a 'tax rate' instead of 'rates' making a property tax with increasing rates for increasing values of property impossible without an act of Congress," Meyers said.

He indicated that pushing for a change in the code was not in his plans, however. "I would rather push for the whole package — home

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### References

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# Electronics firms run abroad

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RADIOS, refrigerators, radar, stereos, generators, TVs, electric toothbrushes, power tools, blenders, electric can openers — the list of electrical equipment used in the United States today has never been longer and it's still growing. Yet in the past two years, 200,000 people once employed by this vast industry have lost their jobs.

Where have all the jobs gone? You'd think there would be more not less. But what makes sense to you and me doesn't necessarily make it with General Electric, Westinghouse, IT&T and all the other big corporations that make up the giant electronics industry. They are busy automating their factories at home and shifting much of their production requiring unskilled labor outside the U.S. — to Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and Mexico where low taxes, cheap labor and raw materials all make plenty of cents for them.

Take a look at the back of your radio or TV — even if the brand name is recognizably American — and you'll probably find "Made in Japan," "Made in Taiwan" or "Made in Hong Kong." According to Business Week, 80 of the country's 200 largest companies have 1/4 of their employees, sales, earnings or assets overseas. And the trend is growing.

Take for instance, General Electric. With more than 70 overseas subsidiaries, GE has increased its foreign production facilities from 21 plants in 1959 to 82 plants in only ten years. And while GE's domestic employment increased by 20% between 1965-1970 (to 310,000), the number of employees in its foreign plants rose to 87,000 — an increase of 107%!

It's easy to understand the reasoning of a company like GE. GE pays \$3.40 an hour in one of its Massachusetts plants, 29¢ an hour for the same work in Singapore. And labor problems are reduced to a minimum due in part to the absence of unions and the plentiful supply of labor.

Between 1966-1970, the GE Ashland, Mass., plant lost over five months of production time due to two strikes. The first in 1966, was a seven week local strike over work conditions. The second was part of the national GE strike of 1969-1970 (the first in 23 years) which lasted more than 3 months. The two strikes at Ashland forced wages up from \$ an hour to \$3.40. It also forced GE to improve ventilation in the crew department and install a locker/shower room.

Six months after the strike ended, GE announced plans for its new Singapore timer plant.

GE has had a long history of moving production to foreign countries. In the early '60s the company closed down its East Boston Christmas tree bulb plant, laying off 400 people. At the time, the company claimed it was moving production to Mississippi and Cleveland, but if you bought GE bulbs this last Christmas, the label said "Made in Hong Kong."

But it has only been in the last five years that the "runaway shops" have come into their own in the electronics industry. Most of the research, development and design is still done in the States, but more and more production and assembly work traditionally done by women and non-whites, has been shipped to the third world. Since transportation costs are low for high-value miniature electronic components, manufacturers have found it easy to



ELECTRONICS FIRM IN PHILADELPHIA (Photo by LNS)

set up assembly lines in remote areas where labor is cheapest.

Recent GE foreign ventures include a transistor radio plant in Hong Kong, the timer and clock plant in Singapore and a new plant on the Mexican border. In the future, the company plans to move its production of semiconductors from Buffalo, N.Y. to Ireland, and the remainder of its Ashland, Mass. clock radio production to "somewhere in Asia," according to a GE spokesman.

What do big corporations say to distract from the fact that they're laying so many people off and pushing the 4.9% unemployment rate even higher? They simply drag out the bugaboo "foreign competition" and while shouting "Buy American, Buy American." If we don't start competing with those foreigners, they say, then every American will lose his or her job.

The argument has a grain of truth in it. The large European and Japanese corporations which have grown up since World War II are in fact making inroads on world trade in such previously U.S. dominated markets as steel, cars, turbines, electronics and household durables.

Competition exists in varying degrees depending on the industry, but as a rule there is usually as much cooperation as competition. The U.S. and Japanese electronics industries are a perfect example. In Japan, electronics is dominated to a large extent by two companies, Toshiba and Mitsubishi and both have been successful the past few years in hornning in on U.S. turf. But neither Toshiba nor Mitsubishi are entirely Japanese.

GE first bought into Toshiba's stock in 1953 and now owns the largest single block — 233 million shares or 12% of the total. It also owns 40% of the subsidiary Toshiba Electronic Systems Co. Ltd, and has 24 licensing agreements with both companies to produce radar, generators, lamps, and boilers — many of which are sold under the GE label.

The relationship between GE and Toshiba is cozy. During the 1969 GE strike, reports a UE research paper, Toshiba was thoughtful enough to provide its "competitor" with needed electrical and electronic parts.

Westinghouse, on the other hand, negotiated its first licensing agreement with Mitsubishi in 1923, and as of 1968, it owned 4% of Mitsubishi's stock making it, according to the Directory of Foreign Establishments in Japan, a "principal" shareholder. The relationship between the two firms is tight enough to force the generally sympathetic Justice Department to bring suit against Westinghouse for conspiring over a 47-year period with Mitsubishi in the use of patents and technology agreements in violation of anti-trust laws.

These ties are by no means the end of collusion between Japanese and American electronics giants. GE, for example, has licensing agreements with over 60 Japanese companies while Westinghouse reported having 176 licensees in 38 countries in 1964. Raytheon has ownership interests in 5 Japanese companies. Sprague Electric has one.

Some Japanese electronics firms, like Sony for instance, operate with a fair degree of independence. But an obvious question pops up: how were these corporations able to close the technological gap separating the U.S. and Japan so rapidly after World War II and become such a "threat?"

The answer is pretty simple. Since 1950, U.S. corporations have sold over 6000 patents to Japanese firms. In addition, as many as 1700 American companies now have foreign licensing agreements all of which necessarily involve the transfer of technology and know-how to the licensee. With U.S. corporations' income in 1969 from overseas license fees, royalties, rentals, and service charges totalling

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\$125 billion (80% higher than in 1964) it's easy to see that technology is often as profitable to export as jobs.

Incidentally, over 50% of the electronics research and development that big corporations so eagerly sell to their "competitors" was subsidized by public tax money.

Since World War II, the U.S. government, private foundations representing internationally minded business like Ford and Rockefeller, and multinational financial institutions like the World Bank have passed laws and pushed all sorts of programs aimed at encouraging U.S. corporations to shift production to foreign countries.

One of the most glaring examples of government sponsorship are tariff codes 806 and 807 passed in 1956 and 1963 respectively. Together they exempt a whole slew of imported products from any tax on the value of U.S.-made components - a law which encourages U.S. manufacturers to ship parts overseas for assembly and then reimport them with tax paid only on the value added (the labor). Total imports under 806 and 807 doubled from \$953 million in 1966 to \$1.8 billion in 1969.

Long-standing tax laws also encourage American corporations to invest overseas by exempting profits made in their foreign operations from taxation until repatriated home. Once their goods are brought back into the country, corporations are allowed to credit any foreign taxes already paid against their U.S. tax bill. That means that the amount of tax paid by GE to Singapore's government, for example, is subtracted from what GE would otherwise pay here.

According to business lobbyists speaking in the Wall Street Journal, elimination of such a tax haven would cut the profitability of U.S.-owned foreign operations in half.

Nixon and his "New Economic Policy" are right behind foreign investment too. Across the board he has struck down bids for higher wages in favor of increased production and higher prices - all designed to give major corporations a big boost.

And every indication is that if reelected in 1972, Nixon will also institute programs to make foreign investments easier and more profitable. He has already created a new Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) under the Secretary of State designed to provide a wide range of services for companies abroad, including pre-investment assistance, insurance against nationalizations, technical aid, and loans.

In addition, the administration has announced a special report which, as described by the Wall Street Journal, will portray the multinationals "as entrepreneurial dynamos contributing positively to U.S. employment, trade and balance of payments."

On the basis of that report's conclusions, Nixon is seriously considering loosening up anti-trust legislation. One of his closest advisors, former Treasury Secretary John Connally, commenting on this possibility in a recent Wall Street Journal article said, "We're saying to them (corporations) 'Fellows, you can't even talk to each other because we've got antitrust laws.'" The "competitor" governments, he says, "don't give a damn what our antitrust laws are, and are at an advantage."

And Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson added fuel to the fire by speculating, "I'm not sure our antitrust formulation gives full weight to foreign competition." So the move is already underway.

Not that the U.S. government hasn't been involved for a long time making the world safe for investment. The United States has often used military intervention and aid to create regimes sympathetic to U.S. corporations (in Taiwan and South Korea for instance, U.S.-trained and equipped police forces enforce a ban on strikes) and if Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines are any indication, all of Indochina would be exploited for its cheap and plentiful labor force were the U.S. to win the war in Vietnam.

Often the U.S. employs more subtle means of coercion than out-and-out war. The Ford Foundation in conjunction with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) has for many years brought promising young Asians to the U.S. to study the American way of doing business. Upon returning and assuming leadership roles, they listen approvingly to U.S. plans for development. In Indonesia where the government has recently begun to encourage U.S. investors, the entire civilian ruling group is known as the "Berkeley Mafia" in honor of its training at the University of California at Berkeley.

AID and the World Bank have worked hard to provide "infrastructure" - transportation, communications, training, water, and energy resource - to support industrial development too. These and other agencies run by U.S., European and Japanese businessmen have even

gone so far as to promote the construction of industrial parks, with factories prefabricated to meet the needs of foreign manufacturers.

But no one is much concerned with the needs of those who live in a country which suddenly finds an electronics plant in its midst (in the last 5 years, for example, 300 American factories have been built just inside Mexico's border, mostly in electronics and textiles). U.S. corporations subscribe to the "trickle down" theory claiming that their presence brings technology to "backward" nations and channels money into the country by creating jobs.

But the overwhelming effect is to create and maintain a country's dependence on the U.S. corporations that absolutely prohibits their growth and self-determination. Control of the technology is kept from them because they are

relegated to unskilled jobs and what they produce is of no use to their country - tiny parts which are shipped back to the U.S. to be assembled into an appliance. And the manpower that could be used to grow food, build schools and tap their own resources is squandered on producing more consumer goods for a nation already smothering in them.

GE, Westinghouse, IT&T - they're all tickled pink at the prospect of increased production and profits with such full support from Nixon et al. And as for those whose interests get lost in the shuffle - Americans forced to fight their way through an already tight job market and third world people locked into a life of making parts for color TVs they'll never see let alone be able to buy - well, it's just too bad.

- LNS

## Forming neighborhood governments

ANTON WOOD

THE question has arisen as to what can be done to develop neighborhood government while we are waiting for D.C. to obtain statehood. Presently any neighborhood can begin to plan the scope and form of such a government, but any community that chooses to do so should realize that Congress or the President can undo any of their actions by a mere act or suggestion of action. There are, however, some very limited but positive actions citizens can take to gain control over their lives and the destiny of their community. The neighborhood residents should follow the same procedure of becoming a legal entity as the citizens of various states undertake, when a town or a city is incorporated. Briefly the steps are:

1. Establish a set of definite boundaries for your neighborhood.
2. A constitutional convention should be convened within these boundaries for the purpose of establishing a neighborhood government and deciding the government's structure and purpose.
3. Once a constitution is written and has been ratified by a majority of the neighborhood residents, then elections should be held to select the government's officials.

The next stage is to obtain recognition of the government's power. Since the U.S. Constitution grants the U.S. Congress exclusive authority over the District, any power obtained by a neighborhood government would be restricted. The constitutional authority of Congress, however does not nullify the right of the people to form their own government. This right is protected by Amendments 9 and 10 of the Constitution. Therefore, there are substantial points on which the neighborhood could negotiate with the D.C. government. The mere fact that the neighborhood government was elected and directly founded by the people gives it more legitimacy and credibility than an appointed one.

The negotiation might resemble a labor-management discussion. There are many alternatives to be followed according to your neighborhood's level of commitment. The most realistic method would be that the neighborhood union of the people agree to the existence of the D.C. government, to pay taxes to this government, and to let it operate services in the neighborhood. In exchange, it would demand the right to supervise and to exercise control over all activities operated in the neighborhood by the DC government. Secondly, the neighborhood would exercise final control in the matters of zoning and eminent domain. The neighborhood should also seek the right to veto any action by the D.C. government, which the neighborhood government considers to be detrimental to the character of the neighborhood.

Finally, any agreement must be made in the form of a legal contract, which gives the neighborhood government recourse if its rights are violated. The neighborhood government could also argue that a percentage of its resident's taxes should be deducted from the D.C. government, to be paid to the neighborhood government for services to be rendered.

Advocates of neighborhood government must not delude themselves into assuming that neighborhood government is a cure all of Washington's problems. Even a neighborhood government with substantial power (which could only exist under statehood), probably would not produce any change in the plantation mentality of the populous. The neighborhood government will find the traditional face of apathy - or the attitude of non-involvement exemplified by the statement, "All I want to do is make enough money so I can move to Reston."

Who will be the people in charge of neighborhood governments? We need look no further than our present electoral fishbowl to find the answer. The caliber of citizens available for community service will resemble those who have in the past sought election to the Board of Education, Model Cities Commission, Change or P.I.C. Most assuredly there will be an attempt by a political machine to control every neighborhood government in Washington, so as to be consistent with a proposed neighborhood agenda, or just for the sake of political patronage.

## LETTERS

### Prison reform

IT is my opinion that if crime were listed in the Gross National Product column, it would be very near the top. Crime has provided more jobs than any other form of activity.

If crime were completely halted would there be a need for judges lawyers, courts, and a host of other crime-related employments that exist by the thousands?

Prisons are failures. They are also helpful in producing a very deterrent atmosphere to some to never want to become a part of one again. To some lesser positive thinking man or woman, it is a breeding ground for crime.

If men and women were institutionally purified to meet societies standards, that man or woman would still encounter great resistance from the community.

Why not let the community witness this purification so as to eradicate its prejudices. This can be done through a process of community re-orientation of the man or woman, bringing about values more acceptable to the community with the community's aid. The rehabilitational process will take place in the community sooner or later anyway, because the prisons can not provide what is needed to send an individual into the community as a better person than when he or she entered into the de-humanized concentration camps. To purify a man or woman, and then dump them into a polluted and biased community is a waste of the taxpayers' money and the rehabilitation re-cycling process.

Sooner or later, most if not all individuals will re-enter the community. The damage inflicted upon prisoners while incarcerated is something that must not be ignored, because it won't be forgotten by those who have suffered.

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THE DC GAZETTE welcomes letters to the editor. Send all correspondence to Letters Dept., DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002.



# Government union boss John Griner

THE American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, is the largest union of federal workers. It has 290,000 dues-paying members, although it claims more. It is the exclusive bargaining agent for 606,391 employees, more than six times the number its closest rival covers. It represents before management about one-fifth of all executive branch employees.

## FEDERAL FORUM

GARY GRASSL

AFGE will hold its 23rd biennial convention August 28 to September 1 in Hollywood, Florida, to elect a president and to determine policy for the next 2 years.

John Griner, the incumbent president, will attempt to have himself elected to his fifth 2-year term. Griner has already taken steps that he be re-elected without opposition. He got the National Executive Council to pass a resolution that he be re-elected by acclamation. The plan will be to shut off nominations at the convention and to steamroller the NEC resolution, despite convention rules which require the election of national officers by ballot.

Nonetheless, Griner will be opposed by Joseph Gleason, National Vice President for New York-New Jersey. Griner must have seen Gleason looming on the horizon for some time, because the Griner-dominated NEC tried to keep Gleason from assuming his present position until it was forced to install him by a U.S. District Court ruling here in April 1969. In 1970 Griner caused a constitutional change to be adopted which specifies that a candidate must have been a federal employee for at least 3 consecutive years before he can be elected to a national office he doesn't already hold. Gleason, a former AFGE staffer who has been a federal employee for less than a year, will challenge this article at the convention.

Griner will exercise strict control over the convention. As presiding officer he will have at his fingertips 15 podium switches with which he can turn on or off the mike assigned to each of the 15 districts of the union. Delegates from the more progressive locals have had difficulty in the past even getting to their district's mike, and when they have, the mike has often been dead. In 1970, Griner cut off all mikes and threatened to call the police on his own convention when the majority of the delegates shouted down one of his illicit parliamentary decisions.

Griner won't allow the 1972 convention to make much policy, although it is mandated to do so by the constitution. He has outlined 59 broad areas in which he will permit no resolutions at the convention. These include practically all areas with which a union could conceivably be concerned. Earlier he had ruled that it is unconstitutional for his union members to take a stand as union members against the war, because constitution proscribes "partisan politics."

Locals are prohibited from offering resolutions on labor-management relations, negotiations with management, health benefits, contracting out by management, promotions, sick leave, per diem pay, the length of the workweek, the Hatch Act, Ervin's federal workers' "Bill of Rights," the protection of employees' privacy, tax reform, leave, life insurance, parking, day care minimum wage, etc. "Any such Resolutions received will be returned," says his order to local presidents.

Griner forbids resolutions in the area of retirement, because, "I know of no particular aspect of retirement which needs any additional resolution." He will not allow resolutions touching on the concerns of wage-grade (blue-collar) employees, because "every facet of thought dealing with wage grade is being or has been pursued." He states categorically: "There is no need for further resolutions" on government pay comparability with private pay scales.

He will hear of no resolutions on consumer protection, because "we are constantly pursuing benefits in behalf of the Consumer and will continue to do so."

If Griner already has a position on an issue, he refuses to allow a resolution on that issue lest the delegates' position differ from his own. For example, he disallows resolutions on minimum-maximum age requirements, because "we have already taken positions in the National Office in this regard."

Griner places an area off-limits either

because he is supporting legislation in that area or because he is not supporting legislation in that area:

*There is no need for additional Resolutions concerning protections of civilian employees of the Executive Branch of the United States and the enjoyment of their constitutional rights as we are now pursuing legislation hopefully which will pass in this session and, should it not pass,*



*we will become reinvolved with new legislation within the next Congress.*

*No need to submit Resolutions concerning the Reorganization of the Government in any of the plans proposed by the President as we are not actively participating in either opposing or supporting legislation in this regard.*

Resolutions in the few areas not taboo must be submitted in triplicate on a special form 58 days before the start of the convention.

Griner is in the habit not only of exercising strict control over conventions but also of dictating their site. Delegates at the 1970 convention endorsed the NEC's earlier selection of Boston as the site of the 1972 convention. But when NVP Dan Kearney of Boston ran against Griner at the 1970 convention, Griner induced the NEC to change its mind and override the wish of the convention to hold the meeting in Boston. Griner, who hails from Georgia, decided to hold the 1972 convention instead in his power base, the south and southeast, convenient for several large, pro-Griner, Defense Department locals. (About 45 percent of AFGE members work for DOD.)

Locals in old-line agencies form Griner's power base. These tend to be larger, because they have been around longer. They also tend to be more conservative.

Griner took special pains that delegates from the larger locals would have no trouble getting leave to attend the 1972 convention: "...I have suggested [to the White House] that a notice from the White House to Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, and other of the larger agencies be sent to such Agencies advising that leave is to be granted to our Delegates and Alternates for the purpose of the Convention."

How does Griner maintain his autocratic rule over AFGE? One way Griner maintains his power is by withholding information from his union members.

The Constitution specifies "The National President shall furnish upon request of any local of this Federation, a complete listing of the names and addresses of local Presidents etc." This list is important for anyone running for a national union office or for anyone wanting to communicate with local officers on issues of common concern. Griner has released this list to only one local during the past 3 years.

Griner operates behind a cloak of secrecy like a federal administrator. The union's bi-weekly newspaper, *The Government Standard*, never reports anything even mildly negative about the union, such as the fact that Griner had kicked 1,300 members out of the union this spring because they refused to rescind peace resolutions. It was the most important news AFGE generated all year, but members had to read about it in the non-union press. Perhaps Griner was reluctant to report that he had kicked out 1,300 members in the middle of a national drive to sign up 30,000 new members, which so far has failed. (Incidentally, workers from these three disbanded D.C. locals have now joined the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, which is on record in opposition to the war.)

Griner's predilection for secrecy is no recent thing. When Griner was first elected national president in 1964, he was involved in a 3-way race. When Griner did not win on the first count, he demanded a recount, according to which he was the winner. As one of his first official acts, Griner ordered the ballots burned, to put an end to further controversy he claimed. The AFGE convention rules, however, state that "ballots and tabulations of each vote cast shall be sealed, and for a period of one year, placed in the custody of the CPA firm engaged by the AFGE at that time."

Even if the union's paper doesn't provide any critical information, it does provide lots of pictures of President Griner. Griner uses the union's newspaper as a personal propaganda medium to such an extent that it is referred to by some unionists as "the Griner picture catalog." The most recent issue carries his picture six times in its 12 pages. The Dec. 17, 1971, issue carried 11 photos of Griner in 12 pages. Griner, however, seems to be getting more modest, because his picture used to appear as often as two dozen times in earlier issues.

Griner's insistence on running everything himself recently cost the members more than \$100,000. Griner paid this sum to an architect firm as an advance commission for the design of a headquarters building. After completing the blueprints, the firm refused to continue the project. Griner couldn't get another firm to build from the blueprints. Griner did not sue the architect, presumably to avoid publicity about his \$100,000 loss. Neither did he recover the money, because Griner, who holds a law degree from American University, had failed to take out a performance bond on the architect, the standard procedure.

This loss occurred because Griner did not let the union's building fund committee do the work it was established to do. For about two years, national vice president Dan Kearney, a committee member, was pressing for a meeting, but Griner did not allow national vice-president Ralph Biser, the chairman, to convene the committee. Finally, before the \$100,000 loss, Kearney resigned. Griner wanted to make all decisions about the contemplated John Griner Building by himself.

Griner reported fixed assets (building plans and engineering costs) of \$116,434 to the Labor Department for FY 1971. These "fixed assets" are a water-color sketch of a building and building plans which no architectural firm will execute. After this fiasco Griner announced in February the purchase of a headquarters building at a cost of \$1.8 million.



The membership has never been told about this loss of its dues money. But it is being asked to pay more dues this year.

Just how much of these dues end up in Griner's pocket isn't explained to the members either. Article VII, Section 3 of the constitution as adopted by the most recent convention specifies that "The salary of the National President shall be \$30,000 a year, and all future salary increases for government employees as enacted by the Congress shall be reflected in the President's salary by that percentage ratio."

Griner reported to the Labor Department that he received \$77,237 from AFGE in FY 1971. Of this amount, \$42,398 was "gross salary," \$8,386, "expenses," and \$26,453, "other disbursements" not further explained. This does not include the pension Griner receives from the government. What Griner receives from the union is nearly twice the salary of a GS-18.

In addition to the \$8,386 listed as expenses by Griner, the report to the Labor Department lists such additional national office expenses as \$574,663 for travel, \$100,675 for telephone and telegraph, and \$141,728 for office rental.

Griner is the only national officer to receive "other disbursements." Employees at the national office could provide no explanation for this sum of money going to Griner.

Griner's affairs are currently being investigated by the Department of Labor, which is revealing nothing at this time beyond the fact that "serious charges" are involved.

Griner tried to boost his total take to almost \$100,000 at the 1970 convention. His defeat at that time marked one of the few times that he didn't get his way on something he really wanted. During the 1972 convention Griner will attempt to get the delegates to approve a raise in the monthly per capita tax from \$2 to \$2.50. The latest increase in this tax, all of which goes to the national office, took effect April this year. AFGE members paid \$5.7 million in FY 1971.

According to Executive Order 11491, employees must have "an opportunity to participate in the formulation...of personnel policies and practices affecting conditions of their employment." In practice, union members are bypassed from having a say on policy, because Griner has reserved for himself the right to deal with department-level management on department-wide policy. Locals have a say only on the poli-

cy that is made by the management of the sub-units where they are the exclusive representative of the employees. at HEW, for example, management neatly bypasses Local 41 in the headquarters office by identifying almost all policy as "department-wide policy" on which no one but Griner has a say. (Management, of course, prefers to deal with Griner rather than with the locals in its department.) Griner never even notifies locals when he negotiates behind their back with top management on their vital concerns. The way Local 41 found out about negotiations this year between Griner and Secretary Richardson on immediate concerns of members within its jurisdiction was by reading about it in the Washington Post.

HEW unionists have been attempting to form a Council of HEW Locals, as permitted by the constitution and practised by VA and other locals, in order to have more direct input in the policies that affect the lives of the workers. But Griner has prevented the formation of such a council, because he fears the influence within it of the progressive leadership of Local 41 and other locals.

Griner's federal career was as a management representative with the railroad unions. When Griner was first elected AFGE president, he took a two-year leave of absence from his job as a representative of management, presumably with the idea that he would return to his old job if he didn't win re-election. When he was elected a second time, he again asked for a 2-year leave of absence, but he was turned down by his agency, the federal Railway Retirement Board in Chicago. Many in the union believe that he has maintained the mentality of a management rep up to today. His predilection for management is apparent when you look, for example, at the people he invites to his conventions. Of the 26 persons Griner invited to the 1970 convention, more than two-thirds were top management officials, and only three were union men. AFGE paid all their expenses.

The AFGE in Griner's hands has become another bureaucracy, a mirror image of the federal bureaucracy against which the union is supposed to protect workers.

Employees of the AFGE have fewer rights and face greater intimidation than even federal employees. They have been, for instance, intimidated from speaking to news reporters.

What Griner thinks of workers is apparent from the way he treats his own employees. He refused to negotiate with the Office and Professional Employees Union in his office when its contract ran out recently. Because the local had no contract, he was able to make a scape-

goat of the editor of The Standard, Harris Monroe, when Wallace supporters turned their ire on Griner recently. The Standard ran a 2-paragraph item from the AFL-CIO entitled "With a friend like Wallace, who needs enemies?" just before Wallace was shot. Griner appeased their anger by firing Monroe.

The Federation of National Representatives, one of the unions representing AFGE employees, recently filed a complaint and a law suit against Griner and the National Executive Council before the National Labor Relations Board. At the June 21 hearing in Baltimore, Griner promised to abide by the provisions of the union contract. But he resumed his contract violations two weeks after his guarantee. Now the federation is bringing fresh suit.

Griner's right-wing mentality comes through loud and clear:

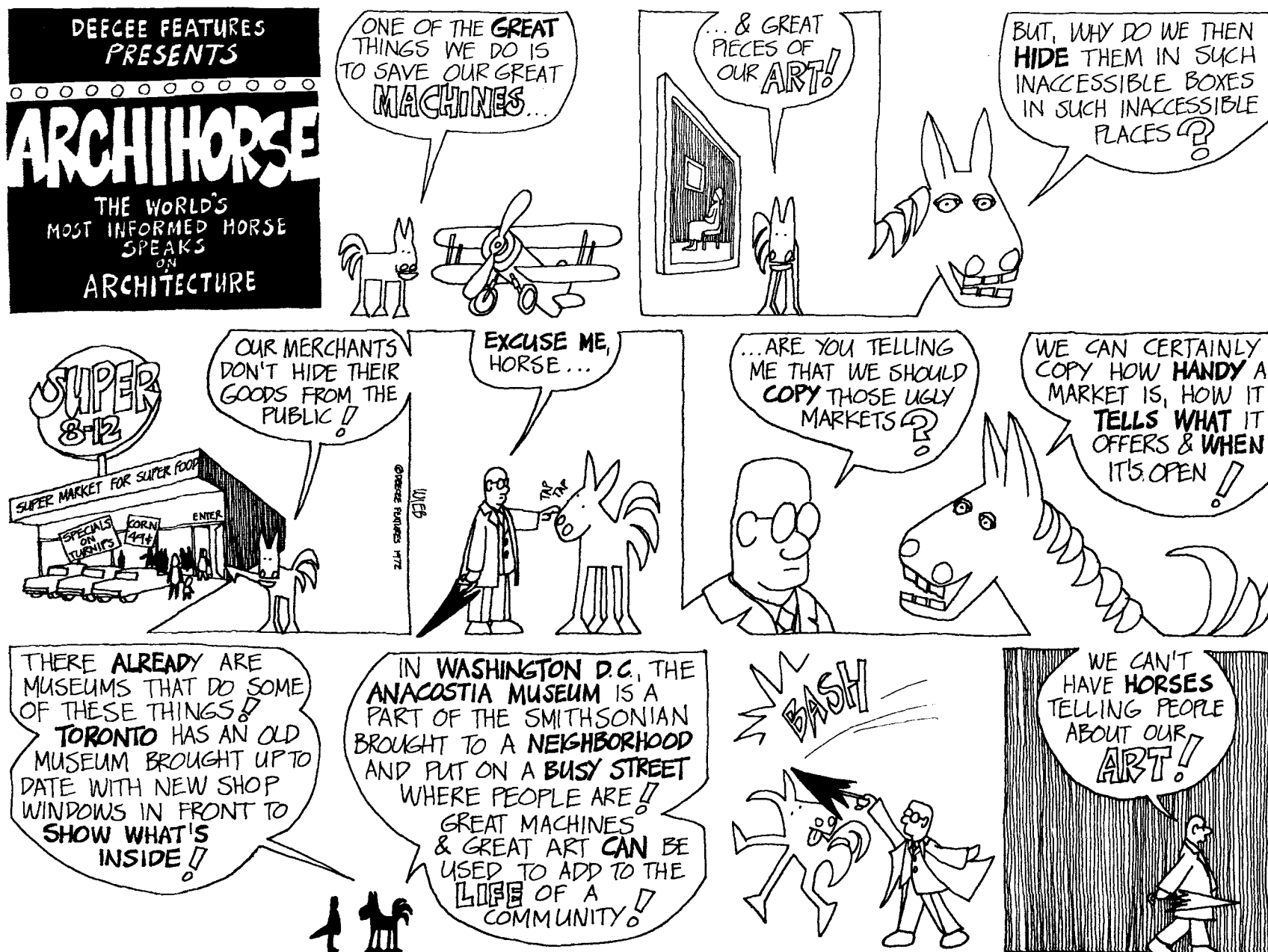
"We firmly believe in the axiom of 'America - love it or leave it,'" Griner testified before the House Internal Security Committee this spring. This was reported in March 24 in a Government Standard article headlined: "AFGE's Griner backs employee loyalty oaths."

Griner also has an affinity for "law and order." Griner had originally scheduled the 1972 convention for Miami Beach. But when the Republicans decided to hold their convention there at the same time, he was forced to change the time and place of his convention. In notifying the local presidents of this change he said, "I realize that this is going to cause some inconvenience to our Delegates and Alternates. However, we can be assured that any demonstrations, etc., that we would probably have been confronted with in Miami during the Republican Convention will be over and we will feel safer on the streets as well as in the Hotel itself."

"I've always opposed the right to strike," says Griner. Griner casts aside the one effective weapon workers have, and his union is not much more than a lobbying outfit. It can only go with hat in hand to Congress and management, relying on their "good will." Without the strike, AFGE is of course not a real union, but a hand maiden of the Civil Service Commission, and management treats it as such.

Griner extolls his lobbying ability with Congress. He keeps talking about how many friends and how much influence he wields among Congress. This among a group of people where influence is regularly sold. Union members are supposed to believe Griner gets all kinds of things for his members through his ability to persuade Congressmen.

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# Trying to match Eugene Debs

THE second floor walk-up, perched above a shoe store in downtown Washington, doesn't much look like the party headquarters for a presidential campaign. No banners, no pennants.

Inside, in a group of rooms that more closely resemble a library warehouse, the Socialist Workers Party is outlining strategy for November.

The candidate, as much unlike her political counterparts as is her headquarters, is energetic and most willing to talk about her party, and the other candidates aiming for residency on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Linda Jenness, 31, is not deterred by the fact that she is Constitutionally too young; nor that the remainder of the presidential aspirants won't recognize her candidacy.

Jenness has no illusions that the Socialist Workers Party alone can change the mass consciousness of the American people, but she strongly believes that the two party system is not the solution to racism, inflation, unemployment, or sexism, and is certainly not the road to peace.

A strong supporter of individual political action, Jenness would like to see more people form their own movements, or join hers. Sensing that the only way to bring about a true socialist revolution is to involve the masses in concrete action, the SWP is working frantically on the local level to gain the almost 500,000 signatures necessary to get on 30 state ballots in November. They are currently 150,000 short.

The SWP filed 26,000 names with the DC Board of Elections last month, nearly 15,000 more than necessary to get on the ballot here. Aside from the presidential ballot, the SWP will also be represented in the DC delegate race by Herman Fagg. Evelyn Reed, a party official, will appear as proxy for Jenness on the ballot because of Constitutional requirements.

About the November election Jenness is most angry. Her reaction against the American political system and its two party foundation is aimed at the system's unresponsiveness to the people. She considers it a crime that her party must scrape up 500,000 names to get on just thirty state presidential ballots.

The crime is exactly what she says it is. The election laws, and the entire electoral process, are not democratic. Not everyone can run for office, only those with money.

Funny that the preservation of the two-party system, the goal of the Democrats 19-hour telethon on ABC had the same message: "We're broke, please give so the election will be fair, and just, and the two party system will survive."

Maybe the Republicans aren't playing fair with the Democrats since they have a \$40-million war chest and the "party of the people" is \$9 million in the hole. After all somebody has to pay McGovern's expenses from now until November 7 so Nixon will have some competition.

But to echo Jenness: "What's the difference."



For her the November election is simply part of a great educational process for the American people. Change will not be brought about by rhetoric. "Rather," Jenness emphasizes, "it comes as a result of the more concrete things that happen in people's lives. The greatest force affecting people in this country is the capitalistic system."

The goal of the SWP is to further enlighten those have already begun to feel disgruntled with the system. "We can only play a role and educate the more advanced sectors of the disillusioned population," Jenness says.

Apparently the educational process involves running for office. Jenness claims over 11,000 active campaign workers across the country. Like a true candidate she has a running mate and piles of campaign literature. Her vice-presidential compatriot is a 21-year-old black, Andrew Pulley.

The flyers and assorted literature of the SWP proclaim it to be "a positive alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties." The cynic would wonder if Jenness and her followers would not be co-opted in the same manner as their political enemies. However, it is enough to recognize that Jenness and the Socialist Workers Party see a need for change. They also call for active mass participation, something the Democrats were big on this year in speech, but less so in action.

Jenness offered to debate all contenders for the White House early this year, but only McCloskey accepted. Perhaps the significance of alternative political activity has not reached the Democrats or Republicans, but it soon will if, as Jenness firmly believes, her party can duplicate this November the 1,000,000 votes cast for Eugene Debs in 1920.

— John Cranford

## EYE ON DC CONT'D

ty-nine percent of those at the convention had post-graduate education. That's proportional representation?

GERMAINE GREER, a friend watching another network tells me, described what was going on as a "political tease." . . . MARY McGRORY, who four years ago was weeping with the demonstrators in Chicago, bitterly attacked those who confronted McGovern calling them a "foul-smelling, foul-mouthed delegation," "screeching," "smouldering-eyed youths." If McGovern wins, it's going to be a hard four years for radicals not enthralled by the tease. They won't be giving parties up at Lennie's anymore.

OF COURSE, McGovern's got to win. Nothing's more important in the coming months. But let's not kid ourselves. Miami represented something very conservative and traditional in American politics: the absorption of a radical force into the mainstream of the major politics. It may well have marked not so much the beginning of a crusade but the end of a movement. *Sic transit Gloria Steinem.*

WHATEVER THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION demonstrated, it certainly wasn't that the party has finally discovered how to hold a democratic convention. The majority of the Democratic Party, as expressed in the primaries, was opposed to the nomination of George McGovern. Having lost most of its battle prior to the convention, the final coup was delivered by a McGovern floor machine that operated as efficiently as any that might have been put together by the bosses the McGovern forces despise so much. The McGovern platform was rammed through, over the protests and ignored demands for rollcalls of both the left and right, as smoothly as if the ghost of old Sam Rayburn himself had been wielding the gavel. When the TV reporters weren't

talking about what an open convention it was, they were admiring how smoothly Gary Hart was keeping everything under control. With the innate piousness of American liberals, the McGovernites executed a magnificent power play and proclaimed it reform.

IT MAY BACKFIRE. Under slightly different political circumstances, the chair might have been gaveling through platform planks on behalf of the preordained candidacy of a Henry Jackson or George Wallace. McGovern proved that a minority candidate can successfully manipulate the rules under which a Democratic nominee is chosen. The new selection system is based heavily on southern-style personality primaries but without southern-style run-offs. In only a few states would McGovern have been able to survive a run-off. The present system penalizes the factions of the party with multiple candidates. This year the center and the right had too many candidates. But in 1976?

IF MCGOVERN WANTS TO COMPROMISE ON SOMETHING, HOW ABOUT BUSING? The Wallacites don't want it. The National Black Convention didn't want it. Most of the people interviewed by Gallup and Harris don't want it. It doesn't do what it's supposed to do, it increases polarization, denies blacks the right to a black-oriented education if they want it and makes everyone mad. It's the last great stand of white liberal paternalism. And the only people who seem to be for it are federal judges, ACLU and NAACP officials and Democratic candidates for president. It would be a major contribution to race relations, common sense, and national sanity if a non-racist like McGovern would stand up and admit that busing as a major policy is a crummy idea.

WALTER FAUNTROY comes out of the convention looking strong. His favorite son strategy proved a valuable tool for increasing black power in the party: His. . . . WALTER'S GOT TO SHARE the 1972 Miami Self-Aggrandizement Award with Chubb Peabody and Clay Smothers, but he'll do all

right. If McGovern wins, Fauntroy will be patronage boss of DC, and patronage has been the big weapon that has so far eluded his grasp. . . . SHIRLEY CHISHOLM says Fauntroy double-crossed her, others are made at him for a variety of reasons, but as a practitioner of personal politics, Fauntroy's efforts can't be faulted.

THE FREEWAY FIGHTERS SEE THE proposed West End project as a scheme to help pave the way for the North Leg Freeway. The West Enders have given the District trouble before on the highway issue and getting some of them out of the way may make matters easier for the District Building. . . . THINGS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO HAPPEN. Oliver Carr who has an option on the Sealtest Dairy site in the West End wants to put up apartments that would be competitive with Watergate. . . . THE FEDERAL CITY COUNCIL, DOWNTOWN PROGRESS and the National Corporation for Housing Partnerships are reported pressing for West End development. The NCHP numbers on its board top executives of outfits like Chase Manhattan, General Motors, and Kaiser. Just a little old bit of community renewal, huh fellows?

WHATEVER THEIR OTHER VIRTUES, McGovern and Eagleton are no friends of statehood. McGovern was all set to introduce statehood legislation last year but ducked out a few days before the press conference because of fears that the bill would embarrass Walter Fauntroy. . . . DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EAGLETON, when it was pointed out to him that Congress could veto any city action under the so-called home rule measure he backs, replied smugly: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." I guess the rules of the new politics don't apply to D.C.

THE CITY LOWERED its personal property tax on business inventories by one-third on July 1 with complete removal of the tax slated for 1974. That means a merchant with \$100,000 in inventory will save \$8,000 in taxes this year, and \$24 thousand a year after the tax is completely removed. Meanwhile, real estate taxes continue to rise.

— SAM SMITH



# GETTING ALONG

## Silva Mind Control

RICHARD SHELL

SILVA Mind Control.  
MIND CONTROL??  
Mind Control.

It sounds like the name they might give the FBI in about 25 years, or it might be a term of endearment for what the Rolling Stones do to you right now. The fact is, however, that it is the name of a course being offered at various points all around the Washington area. A friend of mine took it and came back telling strange stories. I became curious (he was always such a level headed guy, really) and went out to the Key Bridge Marriott to check out the introductory lecture.

I signed up.

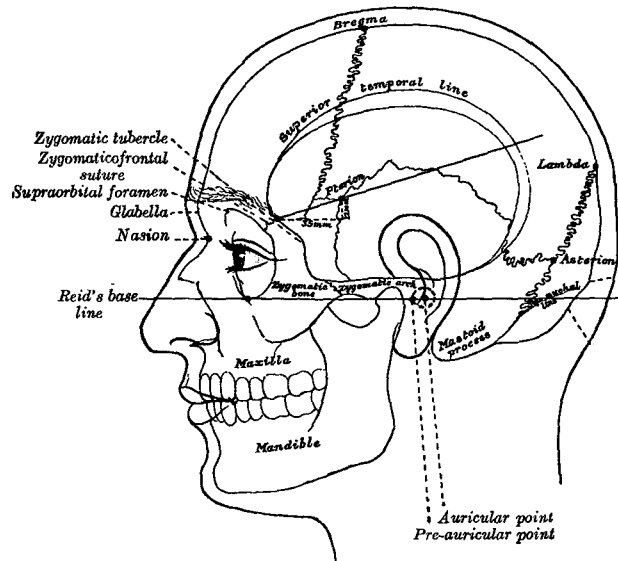
I had never heard such a non-mystical, non-voodoo explanation of psychic and psychosomatic phenomena before. It sounded too interesting to pass up.

Basically the course seeks to familiarize its students with a state of mind. At the very least one learns to relax enough to experience, with greater clarity, his own imagination. For some it is much more than this. The course is a week of learning to trust an inner part of consciousness which has always been somewhat puzzling to most of us.

Every night, between the time when you like down and the time when you finally go to sleep, everyone drifts through a kind of middle-awareness. The events of the day may appear and disappear as in a daydream. You may be vaguely aware of something that has been bothering you. Often the only thing in your mind is the very comfortable sensation that you will soon be asleep. It is this area of mental activity that the Mind Control course wishes to stake out for conscious use. It compares quite closely to the state of mind induced in Yoga, Zen meditation, and other Eastern religious techniques. In Mind Control the method used to attain this relaxed mental activity, however, is more superficial. Put quite simply, it is auto-suggestion.

One is taught to relax the body and free the mind by going through a simple mental exercise which, in effect, sets up the expectation that the desired, relaxed level will be reached. This sounds circular, but it is not. The mind often works on such Pavlovian-type "triggers." Some people, seeing that their clock says 12 noon, are automatically hungry. Their expectation of food is linked to the visual image of a clock. It makes no difference when they last ate. Others, perhaps more eccentric, cannot go to sleep until they have gone through a very personal ritual of closing certain doors or arranging tomorrow's joint on their bureau. Somehow sleep and these other circumstances have become forever related. Tying a string on the finger to trigger memory is the classic example. Almost everyone has some experience of this phenomena. The Silva course programs in such a pattern to encourage the relaxed level of mind.

The course goes on to explain that levels of mental activity are measurable by brain waves. It has been an accepted scientific fact for some time that the brain gives off small, but recordable, amounts of electrical energy. This energy is measurable by frequency, and the various frequencies can be used to label mental levels. Everyday, conscious functioning is defined by any reading above roughly 14 cycles per second. This is the area of activity you, as a reader, are involved in as your eyes go across this page. It is known as the "Beta" level.



Very deep sleep, on the other hand, is measured from 1 to 4 cycles per second and is known as the "Delta" region. Just above "Delta" is "Theata" - 4 to 7 cycles per second. This range of frequencies is associated with reasonably deep sleep as well as those levels of meditation where bodily functions can be controlled and pain can be denied. The old Indian mystic who sleeps on a bed of pins is functioning at "Theta."

The area between 7 and 14 cycles per second is known as the "Alpha" level. When asleep, this is where we dream. When psychics are in contact with long lost relatives, they have been recorded as giving off "Alpha" level brain waves. This is the level which Silva Mind Control students are taught to use.

Students are not only taught to experience their "Alpha" levels, they are shown how to use them. The state of mind is not an end in itself. The course presents methods of visualizing to aid in all kinds of problem solving - personal and practical. There is nothing hocus-focus about it. The mind is much more open to suggestion at this level. If a problem has been causing anxiety at the "Beta" level for awhile, chances are that a motivation will exist for the problem to be solved. The conscious mind can then suggest to the "under" consciousness the solution it would like, forgetting any considerations of how the solution will be reached. Once the suggestion is strong enough, the conscious mind finds itself implementing ways of reaching the goal. Anxiety has been decreased because the problem has been put in a context. Creative thinking is more likely to occur because of the reduction in anxiety. This is the way the mind works anyway when solving a problem; the Alpha-Beta distinction simply puts the process in a framework and thus speeds it up.

The main "use" which the Silva people have in mind for the "Alpha" level turns out to be a strange surprise. Students are shown that, in spite of all rational prejudice to the contrary, they have Extra-Sensory Perception. This is really how the whole thing got started. Jose Silva (originally a research psychologist) was doing work on improving I.Q. in young children. At one point in his research, however, he began to observe a strange phenomena: the children being used as subjects began to answer questions before the questions were asked. The I.Q. question was dropped, and he has been working on ESP (or whatever it is) ever since. The Mind Control course is a side effect of his research.

Throughout the week, various exercises are given to stretch and bend the imagination. One is asked to imagine rapidly changing colors and spinning objects. These things are held in focus for longer and longer periods of time. One projects himself (through the imagination) into different metals. All this is by way of enhancing a latent psychic ability which seems to make its home in the alpha region. On the last day of the course everyone gets a chance to experience this ability for himself.

Cards are brought in by all the students with the names, ages, and addresses of several people they know who are seriously ill. All divide into groups of three. One person holds the card (which also has the illness written on it), one plays the role of the "psychic", and one acts as a recorder. The name, age, and address of a particular person are read, and the "psychic" proceeds to "see" this person - and his illness - in his mind's eye. There is no sensation of strangeness or "otherworldliness"

whatsoever. When I did it, I felt as if I was making up the whole thing. The most concrete feeling I had was that I was being silly. One part of the body I had in my mind simply drew my attention - in the same way one looks at a particular tree in a row of trees. There was no reason, only a casual focusing. As I went on, I even stepped back and described the person's face and build. This was not recommended by the course, but I wanted to push it a little. I was pretty sceptical. I didn't know it, but the people I was with were in a minor panic about this time. I had already identified the man's problem correctly; now I was describing him to a tee. This experience can be repeated as often as one wants to try it. The Silva people say a beginner will be correct from 70% to 80% of the time. They also say you get better with practise.

Even more remarkable is that the technique is actually used to help people who are ill. The claim is made that subjective communication is established between psychic and subject. Positive health vibes can then be sent along the "Alpha" wire. They have case histories to prove it.

Other researchers into the psychic field do not go so far. Dr. J.B. Rhine of Duke University has been studying E.S.P. for many years and is probably one of the most respected scientists dealing in this area. He is currently doing work on yogis to determine if their meditative state increases E.S.P. ability. He has had some striking results, but he makes no mention of any causality between psychic phenomena and healing. His subjects, however, have repeatedly been able to describe activities going on in completely separated rooms during rigidly controlled experiments. Furthermore, they have been measured as being on an "Alpha" level when their psychic "sight" is in use.

Another current use of the "Alpha" state is connected with healing - though not so much with E.S.P. Heart attack victims are now being taught to regulate their own heart activity by maintaining an "Alpha" level. The technique is known as "Bio-feedback." The patient works with a machine which tells him the level of his brain activity. He is gradually conditioned so that he can relax himself and his heart at will.

NERVE gas testing may be resumed at Dugway Proving Grounds, the Army's vast Utah test facility where an errant aerial test of the lethal chemical warfare agent killed more than 4,000 sheep in 1968.

Brigadier General Max Etkin, commanding officer at the Deseret Test Center, the Salt Lake City administrative center for the proving grounds, told reporters at Dugway's first press briefing in 16 years that nerve gas tests are presently being conducted in controlled laboratory experiments. DWSI

Nearly all researchers agree that this altered state of consciousness has bizarre characteristics. Where they differ is in their scientific approaches to studying the data they collect.

Mind Control, meanwhile, gets even stranger. Jose Silva was out in Rockville to speak several weeks ago. He is a small man, very energetic, and a good speaker. He announced that his research staff was now actively engaged in trying to contact extra-terrestrial intelligence through subjective, psychic communication. He went into some detail about the equipment being used and the type of questions they were asking to get to this problem. It seems that all life gives off some kind of electrical energy - it has now been measured in plants. It will be a long process, but Silva is going to try to tune in on the frequency of an outside intelligence. He sounded as if he were discussing a possible breakthrough in bio-chemistry. "This force is like electricity," said Silva. "We do not know exactly what electricity is, but this does not stop us from finding ways to use it."

One can get off this train wherever one wants, however. I am way back at the beginning, personally. It is interesting enough to conjure up a dream and watch it go by - or to take a childhood memory and expand it into a detailed, emotional memory. I have found that my ability to concentrate on a problem has increased tremendously, too. There are little tricks that also prove useful, such as going to sleep at will without a pill and waking up on time without alarms. It is a good way to get off by yourself for a minute when the day starts to lose its perspective.

It costs \$100 for students, \$175 for adults, and it is offered every week at different locations around the D.C. area. The phone number to call is 770-6282 (the main offices are in Rockville).

It might be a good idea to look into it before the FBI does.





Art'st Patricia White, photo by Tom Beck

## ROCK

GREG SHAW

### Kim Fowley

**KIM FOWLEY IS BAD:** Sometimes it happens that the most influential people are the ones you never hear about.

One such person has been in the music business nearly 15 years and is virtually unknown outside of it. He began while in high school, spending his free time in East L.A. looking for kids who could sing rock & roll. He came up with the Hollywood Argyles and gave them a number one record with "Alley Oop."

From there he went on to produce, write, and/or sing on records including "Nut Rocker" by B. Bumble & the Stingers, "Papa Oom-Mow-Mow" by the Rivingtons, "A Thousand Stars" by Kathy Young, "Popsicles and Icicles" by the Murmaids, and "Land of 1000 Dances" by The Midnites.

He founded and operated several record companies, producing many obscure records by people who later became famous, like Procol Harum, Spooky Tooth, Cat Stevens, Dave Mason and Jim Capaldi. That was on his first trip to England in 1964, during which he recorded with the Stones and Jimmy Page, managed P.J. Proby and the Rockin' Berries, the Soft Machine, and Them, and turned out some hit records of his own.

Back in the States, he gave Paul Revere & the Raiders their first hit, helped Steppenwolf, Jim Morrison, and Van Dyke Parks get their start, was asked by Zappa to be a founding member of the Mothers and did the vocal on "Help I'm a Rock." That's the famous ones. The list of obscure records he was involved with would go on for pages.

Lately his activity has been confined to songwriting, and his songs have been recorded by the Byrds, the Sir Douglas Quintet, Emerson Lake & Palmer, Leo Kottke, the West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band, Manfred Mann and many others. He is a legend in the music industry.

His name is Kim Fowley, and don't feel stupid if it doesn't ring a bell. He could've chosen fame at any time by doing the kind of music people are used to, but throughout his three albums and his uncounted singles his approach has always been one of outrageous satire, experimental novelty and deliberately offensive raunch.

While Fowley is secure and successful in what he does, he also likes to keep playing around, so last year he decided to do an album of modern, laid-back country rock songs. He was signed by RCA and the album was acclaimed by all who heard it, but somebody in the Eastern office decided not to issue it. At the same time, to demonstrate his versatility, Kim cut demos of some hard, wild rock songs. These were heard by Capitol Records and he was signed up to do an album of this type.

And did he ever! *I'm Bad* (Capitol ST-11075) is the most raunchy record I've heard since the Barbarians released "Are You a Boy Or Are You a Girl?" The sound is so basic it's stark, with Mars Bonfire (who wrote "Born to Be Wild" for Steppenwolf and keeps things on that level here) on guitar, and nothing else on most cuts except

drums and inaudible bass. The music is built on power chords and teenage licks without being heavy or overly stilted - it's good driving music in the best tradition of L.A. studio rock.

Fowley can do almost anything with his voice, short of sounding ordinary. To fit the tone of this album he chose a raspy, slightly exaggerated Captain Beefheart growl. Like the songs themselves, it's repetitive and begins to drag after awhile. His message here is well enough summed up by songs like "Let it Loose," "I'm Bad," "Forbidden Love," and "California Gypsy Man" that he would have done better to fill out the album with some examples of how melodic he can be. Many of the other cuts sound nearly as raw as the demos they were taken from, and could have stood some additional production, whether pianos, double-tracking or what, to make them sound fuller and take on more personality.

There are few people in Hollywood with a more distinctive personality than Kim Fowley, and it's usually expressed through the sort of self-glorification that comes out in songs like "Queen of Stars" where he says, "I live to thrill a dirt queen, I'm gonna chill a dog queen/I'm going to move a surf beast, I have to touch a snake girl./ Oh, I'm a son of Satan." There is more to Kim Fowley than that, but *I'm Bad* is a celebration of that side of his personality, and as such it is a classic; you can't get much greasier in 1972. He can do much more, and undoubtedly will, but you should pick up on him now before you miss anything. He's too much.

-AFS

## ART

ANDREA O. COHEN

### Gallery Marc

THE Gallery Marc, one of the least commercial and in some ways most interesting of our galleries, has closed. Marc Moyens and his partner Mini Odoroff opened the Gallery Marc just a year and a half ago at 2121 P Street because they saw hollow places in the Washington art scene and wanted to fill them, but soon became disillusioned. People proved more interested in hassling and hustling than Moyens/Odoroff expected, and less interested in seeing what they wanted to show - a carefully selected sampling of work being done in other parts of the country and abroad regardless of its popularity here. The emphasis was on surrealism, but they showed everything from hair by hair realism to the most abstract art.

Because Moyens and Odoroff will still buy and sell from their homes in Virginia, they continue as a fertilizing influence on the Washington art scene, for artists as well as art eaters. Their tastes in art go "from squid to roast beef," but they tend to favor unestablished or dis-established artists - those who work against the grain of provincialism. Moyens is

a European who has no patience with regional chauvinism including the common Washington attitude of "pretending art begins and ends with the Washington color school and ignoring everything else."

Moyens and Odoroff felt strongly that because Washington is the nation's capital, it should provide a showcase for every form of art. Their collection includes work by Australian aborigines to local, but unfashionable artists. They showed much that Washington had not seen before, such as surrealist art, which though unpopular here, is alive and very well in Europe, Japan and in other parts of the US.

Moyens is infuriated by fashionable art movements, manufactured by publicity moguls, and has convinced such unmodish, older Washington artists as Dominic Spadoar and Franklin White to show for the first time in many years. He has also given unfashionable young Washington realists their first showing. He is spending this summer unearthing and bringing to attention some of the best, but neglected, artists of the '50s.

Moyens is also a scholar and reads carefully most art journals, including foreign language publications. But, quoting Gide, he concludes, "and now Nathaniel, throw this book away and live." For in the end, our relationship to art depends on seeing and feeling, and bringing to bear on it that baggage we lug around and call personal experience.

The closing of this highly sophisticated, intriguing gallery raises some questions. Can other galleries give commercial haven to the kinds of artists Moyens and Odoroff showed and still collect?

Are we really so sophisticated and curious about art or interested in it only as blue-chip wallpaper? Can a gallery remain aloof from the business of art?

## FILMS

JOEL SIEGEL

### Some Jewish jokes

I WENT to see Portnoy's Complaint in a charitable mood. Everybody had been so hard on the movie, and so self-righteous about its vulgarity, that I felt a tinge of sympathy in advance. Besides, the movies I've seen lately have been so dumb and dreary - with *The Other* setting some new kind of absolute for stupefyingly artsy torpor - that Portnoy really couldn't be much worse.

My sympathetic bias for Portnoy turned out to be a product of my limited imagination. I could never have envisioned so rotten a movie - stupid, cowardly, inept, pointless, crude, depressing. With such a perfection of badness, it's hard to parcel out blame but I suspect writer-director Ernest Lehman deserves most of the boos. Lehman, who wrote and produced the disastrous movie *Hello Dolly!*, doesn't seem to have the faintest idea what the celebrated Philip Roth novel is about. The Roth book has been justly proclaimed a contemporary classic - the definitive satiric portrait of Jewish-American neurosis - but the material is wildly uneven. (Superb in the long delineation of Portnoy's childhood and adolescence; unsure in the later episodes with Monkey; embarrassingly out of control in the closing Israel section.) Absurdly, Lehman has reduced the young Portnoy to a few clumsy flashbacks and placed full emphasis upon the weaker, adult parts of the material. What's best about the book - the extraordinary evocation of an oral-Jewish upbringing in Brooklyn - never reaches the screen.

Lehman goes all out with the novel's notoriously raw language but, in order to hold on to his R-rating, keeps his images so chaste that we never see even the most fleeting glimpse

## LOCAL ARTISTS

GROUP EXHIBITION at the Henri II through August 10.

GROUP SHOW of African and American artists at the Smith-Mason through Sept. 1.

AFRICAN ART in Washington collections at the Museum of African Art indefinitely.

THOMAS ROONEY at the Textile Museum through August.

GROUP SHOW at the Emerson Gallery, McLean, through August



of a female breast, let alone, God forbid, a peek of genitalia. With its dirty mouth and cloister-pure visuals, the movie is alarmingly schizophrenic and, psychologically speaking, at least as sick as its protagonist. All that blustering, bold talk about screwing and eating and hand-jobs (not to mention, ugh, vomiting and diarrhea) and not a bit of action. To counter the objections of the bluenoses (like, believe me, the virginal Rona Barrett), the movie isn't too dirty but, rather, not half dirty enough. Portnoy done properly would probably be too disgusting for most viewers to enjoy, including me. But then, at least, the movie would be about something. I haven't got the foggiest notion as to what the present adaptation is striving for, apart from the obvious exploitation of a "hot book" to sell lots of tickets.

I vow, right now, that Portnoy is my last Richard Benjamin movie. With his smugness, microscopic acting range and excessive cuteness, he had bored me silly by the end of *Goodbye Columbus*, his movie debut and, coincidentally, another Roth adaptation. Since then, Benjamin's been given lots of meaty movie roles but, instead of using them to grow and extend his expressive range, he's retreated, turtle-like, into his shell of annoying mannerisms. One always knows what he's going to do next. Everything's telegraphed. It's like silent movie acting without the poetry or intensity. And his physical unattractiveness compounds the badness of his acting. At least in earlier movies, bad actors were presentable.

There's not much to say about the rest of the cast. Karen Black isn't as pouty-eyed or brooding as she's been lately. In fact, she's never looked so glamorous in a film and even shows indications of a latent sense of humor. (However this may simply be the result of putting her next to Benjamin.) Lee Grant is a washout as Ms. Portnoy, shiksa-faced and sounding like she's been dubbed by Thelma Ritter. Even worse than her overblown mother in *The Landlord*, Ms. Grant's Sophie doesn't seem to be acted at all. As for the remaining credits, the film is poorly shot by the usually reliable Philip Lathrop and inexplicably scored in the lushest Michel Legrand manner. We are spared a Love Theme for Liver but nothing else.

Under ordinary circumstances, I'd find it necessary to point out that this unpleasant film, produced and created mainly by Jews, is virulently anti-Semitic. However it is also so consistently and virulently anti-human that accusations of religious and racial slander seem petty. No, Portnoy's Complaint isn't a case for the Anti-Defamation League. An urgent call to the Sanitation Department would be more appropriate.

Woody Allen's *Play It Again, Sam*, a more tolerable, only quasi-Jewish comedy, is an enjoyably trivial hot-summer-night's entertainment with, maybe, a dozen good bellylaughs for everybody. The film is really a shambles but, at least, it's not sour and spiteful of its audience in the way that's killing most recent Hollywood comedy. (e.g. *Little Murders*, *Carnal Knowledge* and, on a somewhat higher level, *Catch-22*.)



Woody Allen movies skitter from joke to joke without ever attempting to become more than animated gagbooks. One can't even mention them in the company of the brilliantly constructed and infinitely more pleasing comedies of Buster Keaton, Ernst Lubitsch or Preston Sturges. *Play It Again, Sam* is so chaotic that when in the last reels, it tries to make a point or two, even the laughs dry up. As in all Allen comedy, the focus is upon neurosis and self-deprecation (characteristics of all modern Jewish-American humor), subjects easier to take in t.v. guest shots than in full-length features.

The plot is a trifle about hung-up movie buff, abandoned by his wife, who fails to score with any number of girls and finally ends up seducing his romantic advisor, his best friend's

wife. Diane Keaton is hardly a great comic actress but she brings to the film that radiance and good nature which made her stand out in *The Godfather*. There are a number of pretty girls sprinkled throughout the film. One of them isn't Susan Anspach (of *Five Easy Pieces*) who plays Allen's bitchy ex-wife. Ms. Anspach, a skeletal Sandy Dennis, is probably the least appealing young actress in American movies and though she's perfectly cast here, she'd be better not cast at all. (She and Benjamin might co-star in some ultimate horror movie. But I wouldn't go.)

The unsinkable Viva is sunk, wasted in a thirty-second bit which forces her to read lines not a fifth as funny as those she has improvised for Warhol. Herbert Ross's direction falls somewhere between his inspired *The Owl and the Pussycat* and his dreaded *T.R. Baskin*. He's good with actors and keeps things moving but too often the film dissolves into an inappropriately vapid San Francisco prettiness while the ramshackle storyline and urban jokiness keep calling out for a harder, New York nitty-gritty look.

The Casablanca reference in the title echoes the Allen character's obsession with Bogart, the manly movie fantasy figure he dreams of emulating and who appears from time to time to offer advice, notably in a very funny seduction scene with Ms. Keaton. The idea of a wimpy hero hung up on Bogart was used earlier this year in Stephen Fears' *Gumshoe*, an unjustly neglected Albert Finney movie. *Play It Again, Sam* plays the situation strictly for laughs with just a touch of easy pathos. *Gumshoe*, though less immediately appealing, had an indescribably delicate wash of melancholy over everything and was, for me, the more memorable film. The Circle or the Biograph might do well to show them together, as variations on a theme.

I can't imagine what audience remains for yet another Neil Simon New York Jewish gagathon like *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

The Simon joke machine is getting mighty rusty these days, a fact hardly concealed by Gene Sacks' typically atrocious direction and Neal Hefti's chewing gum-commercial score. This one is, like *Plaza Suite*, a collection of one-act situation comedies about a middle-aged Jewish businessman (you can tell he's Jewish because he frequently talks to God - using his hands) making three fumbling tries at having an extra-marital affair. Alan Arkin, who is constantly on camera, is considered by most people to be a great actor, mainly because he always lets us know just how hard he's acting. (We Americans are still suckers for 'effort' and 'sincerity' in the arts.) His performance is terrible here; cliched, textureless, without dynamics, even his timing is off. Unlike her husband, Paula Prentiss is good looking but, like him, she's one big, irritating mannerism. She's so dreadful that I walked out of the movie and never got to see Renee Taylor, who was so good in *Made For Each Other*.

Sometimes, even in a movie as bad as this one, there's something worth seeing and, unexpectedly, it's Sally Kellerman. In all of her movie and TV appearances since *M\*A\*S\*H*, Ms. Kellerman has appeared to be suffering from

## LOCAL DANCE

JAN VAN DYKE at Marvin Center, GWU, Friday Aug. 4 at 8:30 p.m. "An Evening of her Works." Solos and group pieces with area dancers. Information and reservations, call: 966-7397.

## LOCAL THEATER

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA will be presented free of charge at the Sylvan Theatre through August. Info: Lorna Williams, 547-3935.

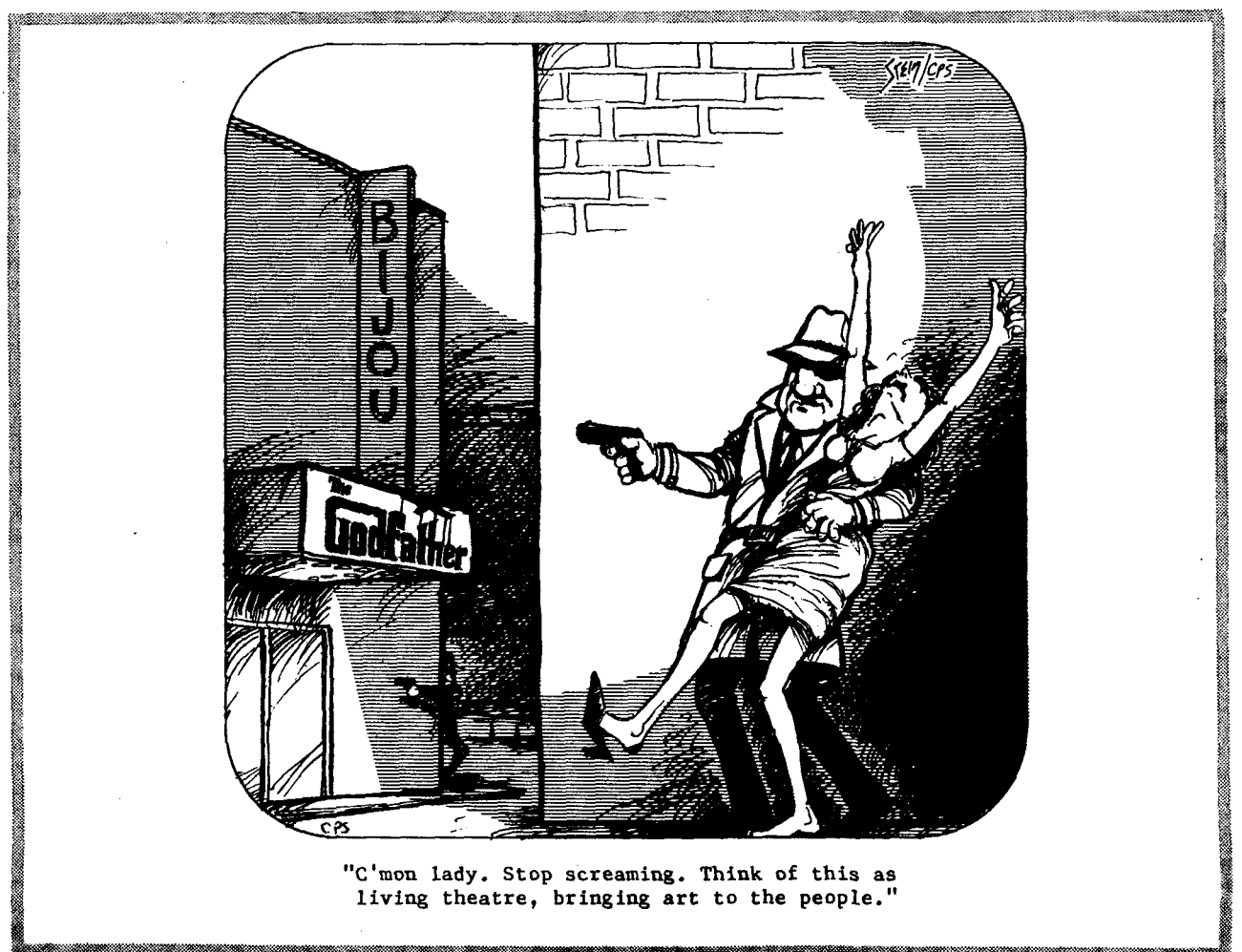
BLUES AND LAUGHTER at the Back Alley Theatre Thursdays through Sundays until Aug. 6. 723-2040.

some terminal strain of slithering nymphomania. In this movie, she's finally been cast as a slithering nymphomaniac and she's joltingly good. Simon intends for us to view her as a lost, pathetic woman - part of his hokey defense of home and hearth. But Ms. Kellerman subverts the Simon schlock; she's a hard, carnal woman whose truthfulness eclipses all the falseness of the film enclosing her. When Ms. Kellerman walks out of the movie (after the first half-hour), you'll probably want to walk too. But what she does while she's there is marvelous.



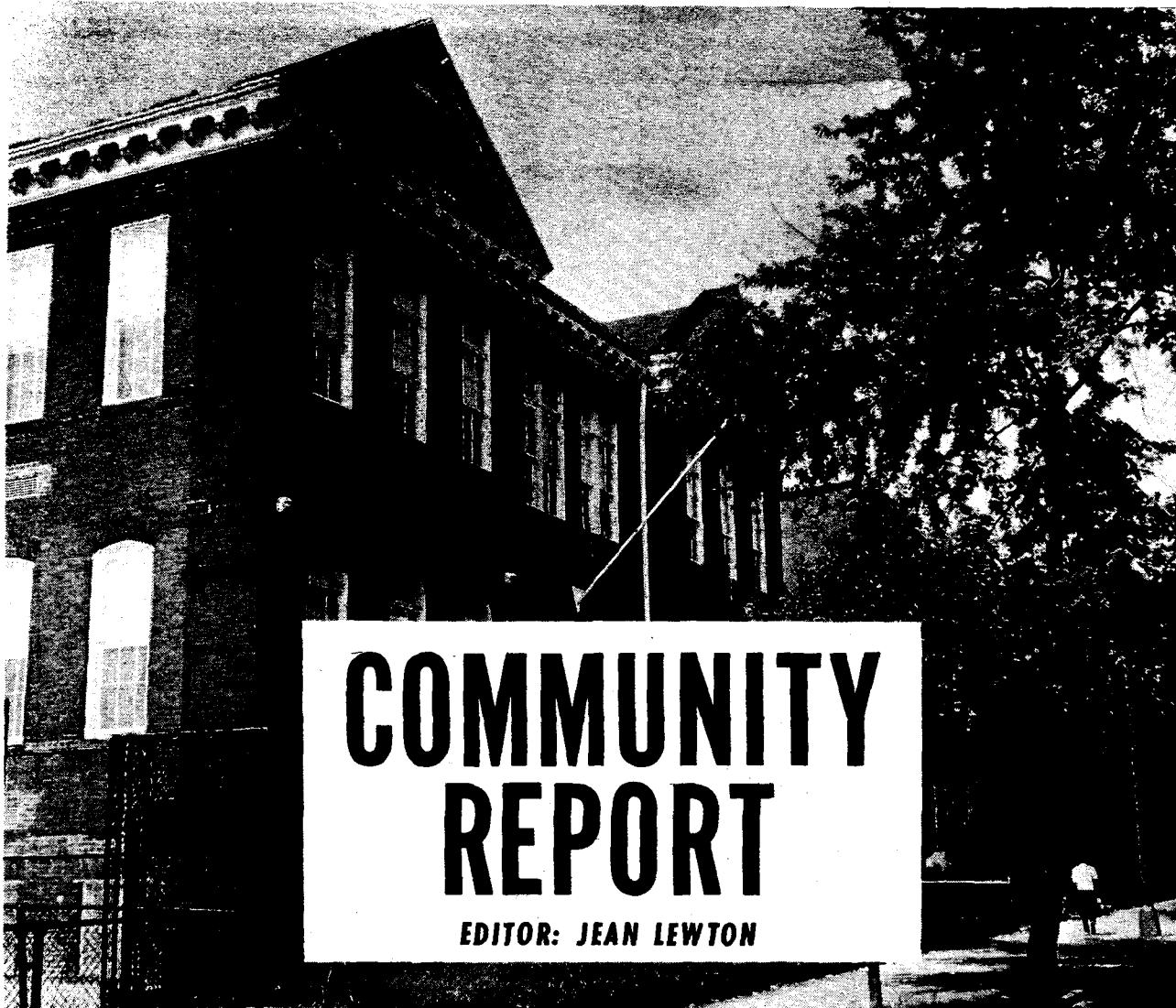
LA PARESSE

INFORMATION on the Smithsonian travelling exhibitions can be obtained from the Travelling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. The exhibits in architecture, photography and art, deal with topics ranging from The Frederick Douglass Years to Women and Women's Work.



"C'mon lady. Stop screaming. Think of this as living theatre, bringing art to the people."





ROSS Elementary School, 17th & R, NW, which has served as an administrative annex, will reopen this fall for students of the Summer School area. The Hawthorne School will occupy the old Summer School.

## Community schools: a good idea sours

IN May 1969 the Capitol East Gazette ran a story by Janice Delaney on the Maury Community School at 13th and Constitution, NE. "By now the three-year-old Maury Community School should no longer be a stepchild of the DC School Board; it has passed the experimental stage, has proven its worth and should no longer have to fight for every benefit. If it is to continue, however, it requires the support of all segments of the Capitol East Community."

Three years later, and six years after it was selected, Maury is still a community school. It receives special funds to provide community services under the leadership of a community coordinator. The Maury coordinator, Eureka Adair, has served since 1966.

In 1969 Sara Carroll, a 50-year-old mother of six, was quoted as saying: "The Community School has served a great many purposes in the advancement of my education...some of the subjects I have studied are English, mathematics, reading and sewing." Today she'd be hard put to find those classes. The only program mentioned three years ago which still exists at any level of success is a summer program for children called "Operation Shakeup," and even this program was in jeopardy for the 1972 summer because the building and grounds department under Granville Woodson had scheduled the school to be closed for repairs. Woodson's cavalier attitude toward the summer activities of a community school is symptomatic of the school system's utter lack of interest in the program.

The community school program was the brainchild of deputy superintendent Benjamin Henley (who recently retired) who had read glowing reports of the program in Flint, Michigan. In Flint, however, the community schools are sponsored by the Mott Foundation, funded by Stewart Mott's large inheritance from General Motors. In Flint money is no object. Unfortunately, in Washington money is.

Henley realized that in order to have a community school program in Washington, he would have to get Mott money. In 1966 he arbitrarily selected Logan and Garnet-Patterson as the schools to receive seed money from the Mott Foundation. Maury was added about two months later, but was funded by the DC school system. Bruce, H.D. Cooke, Emory, Richardson, Johnson, Paul, Beers and Harrison were added through a combination of DC funds, Mott money, Model Cities grants and Title I funds.

The 1973 budget contains request for six community schools: H.D. Cooke, Bruce, Hendley, Logan, River Terrace and Maury. In addition,

Harrison and Garnet-Patterson will be funded with federal monies. The DC request for '73 is \$463,130. Of this total approximately \$184 thousand or 40% will go for administration. The rest is for teaching and supplies.

Henley's conception of a community school was never that of community control. In fact the program is called "Community School" only because that was what it was called in Flint and the name was used as a ploy to get Mott money. Indeed, the School Board has a committee on community schools; but it deals only with community-controlled schools - Adams-Morgan and Anacostia - not with Maury and its sister schools. As far as the school board is concerned, community schools are low in priority.

### CAPITOL EAST JEAN LEWTON

What Henley envisioned was a school building which would be open to serve needs of the community which might, or might not, be requested by the community. In other words sewing, typing, remedial education, some social services and recreational activities would be based at a neighborhood level in a neighborhood school which would be open to the neighborhood during after-school hours. There would be little, if any, interaction between the regular school program and the after-school program, although the principal would be responsible for both programs. If the principal were amenable he could, at his discretion, on his own time and with his own energies coordinate the community school program with the regular school program. In addition the principal could coordinate the programs of the Recreation Department with the community school and oversee both programs in the school after school hours.

On the other hand the community coordinator is responsible not only to the building principal but equally to the assistant superintendent of community schools, Marguerite Seldon and her immediate subordinate, Fred Aranha, a former Mott employee. She is to coordinate her activities with the Recreation Department and the community (both that immediately surrounding the school, and the larger community - which in the case of Maury means Capitol East). She is also responsible to the School Board.

Ultimately, all the community schools programs were responsible to Benjamin Henley who, every year, would personally testify before Con-

gress for money to support his baby. Congressman Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (R-Mich) from Mott's district would personally arrange for an extra \$100,000 to be put in the community school program budget to make Mott happy. That this additional money had not been requested by the school board did not worry Representative Riegle.

After six years at Maury Ms. Adair is bitter. She's seen her program at Maury erode to the point of non-existence. As far as she's concerned the community doesn't care, and whatever she's tried has ultimately failed. She blames Maury principal Lawrence Hill for lack of cooperation and her community aides for lack of initiative, and cites the totally inadequate building, no help from the administration and little interest from the school board.

"I don't know why Maury is a community school. It's Henley's school...Unless I get a response from the community I shouldn't stay... How can I get action from the community to help the children?...Should the program be at Maury?...Henley is a sweet general person...How concerned is Scott, really, in the community? I know he's more concerned with what the community thinks of him...I've been here six years and I'm not willing to be a cog in the wheel..."

Ms. Adair came to Maury the wrong way. She wasn't an education establishment person. She came from the Girl Scouts and had been their inner-city organizer for the Mid-Atlantic states. She'd been an effective organizer and wanted to do more, to be at the heart of it in the inner-city. When she complains about directives talking about "organizing into functioning units" she immediately comments that "that's backward, a bureaucratic way, starting in their minds and passing down." As far as she's concerned "school-oriented people won't listen to the community." They think in terms of buildings and money but "the problems have to do with human resources and relationships and at root a better educational setting for the children. It's like 'let's make some biscuits and not provide the shortening.'"

She complains about the philosophy of the administration, or in reality, the lack of it. She'd like some supervision and evaluation, but she doesn't get it. She feels great animosity toward principal Hill, who she feels has thwarted every effort she's attempted, including placing her office in a hot, airless former closet. She questions the ability of other community coordinators. "Where is the coordinating?" she asks. When she has asked them for comments on her programs, she has never received a response.

She has hired three part-time community aides but these aides have only contacted about 15 families in the six-block Maury neighborhood. She's held several community meetings this year, and gotten nowhere. At the final meeting 15 people attended. Two of these were Gazette reporters, one was an observer from Friendship House, two were on her staff, one was a Boy Scout organizer, and one was her supervisor, Aranha. Only nine were from the community. An earlier meeting, whose purpose was to explain the community school program and organize a community school council attracted only 25 people.

This last year there has been a modicum of tutoring, some adult education averaging less than the 10 students required, a homework center in the library after school, some physical education, a children's sewing class and a class for disturbed children led by a former teacher to take care of those students at Maury that the principal and the teachers can't handle. Ms. Adair calls her the school's "personal football."

But no matter how acerbic Ms. Adair is, she is amply matched by principal Lawrence C. Hill. "I want to see tangible results and a growing program. I would leave it up to her as to how, but I'm up against a brick wall." In his desk Hill has a plan for a community school, but he won't show it to Ms. Adair. As her immediate supervisor he is required to fill out a performance rating. This last year he did, taking a teacher rating form, changing a few words here and there and giving the lowest possible rating, ending with a request for her removal.

Prior to 1966 Hill was a teacher-counselor at Maury. Then he became an assistant principal at Harrison, a successful community school. In 1968 he returned to Maury as its principal and with great support for a community school. As he said, "We dream." Instead of a dream, he found a moderately successful program and a coordinator with whom he could not work. When asked why he did not come to the May community meeting he answered: "I don't care to come. Since 1968 I have asked for a community council. Where are the parents who were with it? I have met with her, the teachers - nothing - This is a nuisance." He complains that Ms. Adair is never around. When he asked her for a schedule,



he never got one that he felt was accurate. "I'm her immediate supervisor. The problem is who's responsible to whom. She should hold to a schedule. She's operating in an autonomous state and I don't think I should have to do that person's job."

Having worked in a successful community program, Hill has definite ideas on what a community school program should be. It should be willing to serve the total community, it should be willing to serve as many people as possible and render services to benefit all its members, a survey should be taken to determine community needs and there should be a Saturday school - a language arts program which includes parents, principal, teachers and children. "I have no objection to a community school, but she won't cooperate, we've had conferences, but she won't coordinate."

It is obvious that the two can't get along and they readily admit they have a personality problem. Because of this the program at Maury has suffered and the community has suffered. Louise Hawkins, a parent and PTA vice president says that Ms. Adair has tried everything in the book, but the community doesn't seem to care. "She tries and has gone all the way... she really cares about the children, but the community school is not serving its purpose." Yet she also says that Ms. Adair is hard to work with and Hill never does anything. She has found that people would rather meet outside the school. As evidence she is a member of an active Maury group called the VIP's (Very Interested Parents) who hold pot luck suppers and raise money for the school. Rather sadly, she adds, "The community doesn't care. If you cut it [community school] out, the people would scream, but now they never open their mouths."

Maury is but one community school, but it is hardly unusual, and the personality conflicts are caused by the system as much as by the personalities. The problems so obvious at Maury are endemic to the community school program as currently organized. The community is not consulted on what it wants. The administration and the school board never investigate the schools to find out what programs are successful. Board member Martha Swaim from Ward 6 had no knowledge, other than a few rumors, about the community school program at Maury. The administration refuses to be bothered and Superintendent Hugh Scott is opposed to the program: "I don't like them. I don't want to have to deal with a lot of little fiefdoms."

There is no policy concerning the interaction between the various kingdoms: the principal, the community coordinator and the Recreation Department. Community schools were chosen arbitrarily and communities which have recently requested community schools have been ignored. Principals are not given the logistic support they need. There is, even with the best of principals and the best of community coordinators, no workable division of responsibility between them. And finally, does the community really care?

Herbert Boyd, present principal of Brent Elementary School in SE, was the former principal of Logan Elementary School, one of the original community schools. When approached by the PTA to turn Brent into a community school, Boyd refused, even though he believes in the community school concept. But then he's been all through it, and he realizes that he doesn't have the stamina to be an excellent principal and an excellent manager of a community school. Boyd states that: "I believe in a swinging school, and schools can be no better than the community it exists in..." but Boyd also knows that if Brent were to become part of the community school program as presently set up, he'd probably end up with an ulcer or a heart attack, no matter how well he got on with his community coordinator.

## CAPITOL EAST

■ IF in doubt, do nothing, seems to be the situation with the Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church and the plans to construct a parking lot at the corner of 5th and East Capitol Street. The June business meeting of the church did not even include the subject on the agenda, and it appears doubtful that any decision would be made before the autumn.

Legally, the Church can tear down the three houses bordering the corner, but area residents are against tearing down the pre-1900 structures. The church board has stressed that the parking lot would be temporary and that eventually the church building would be enlarged, but residents and the Capitol Hill Restoration Society would prefer to leave the structures standing until these building plans are finalized.

■ **AFRO-CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL:** Friendship House is sponsoring an Afro-Caribbean Street Festival on Saturday, August 5th from 3 to 10 p.m. Emphasizing African and Caribbean food, games and entertainment, the festival will take place along the 600 block of D Street SE, in front of Friendship House. Admission is free.

Entertainment will feature a steel band as well as the House's Ujamaa Dancers and Drummers and a variety of musical groups. House staffers and Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees will teach African and Caribbean games to participants. Info: Phyllis Heyer, 557-8880.

■ **BUDGET HEARING:** There will be a workshop on proposed fiscal year 1974 capital improvements for Service Area 5 at the Hine Junior High School on Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Hine is located at 7th & C SE.



MARY'S Blue room at 5th and East Capitol would be replaced by a parking lot. (Photo by Marilyn Liebrecht)

## GEORGETOWN

■ **WATERFRONT REZONING:** The zoning commission will hold a public hearing on August 16, at 10 a.m. in room 500, the District Building, to determine a 2-year interim zoning plan for the Georgetown waterfront. At the end of two years a final determination will be made pending the results of a study begun January 26, 1972.

There are three alternate proposals:

(A) Change all lots fronting on both sides of M St. NW between Wisconsin and 37th Sts. NW from light industrial to commercial and change all other lots in the area bounded by M St. NW, Rock Creek, the Potomac River and 37th St. extended from light manufacturing and manufacturing to residential.

(B) All property in the Georgetown waterfront area bounded by M St. NW, Rock Creek, the Potomac River and 37th Street extended will be limited to a maximum of 40 feet, but the use of the light manufacturing and manufacturing zoning would remain.

(C) Retain the manufacturing and light manufacturing zoning, but limit the Floor Area Ratio of all buildings to one.

Interested persons may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments should be sent to the Administrative Officer Zoning Commission, Room 11A, District Building, 14th & E Streets, NW, DC 20004.

## NORTHWEST

■ **BUDGET HEARING:** There will be a workshop on proposed fiscal year 1974 capital improvements for Service Area 8 at the Cleveland Park Library, Conn. & Macomb NW, on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

## SOUTHWEST

■ **BUDGET HEARING:** There will be a workshop on proposed fiscal year 1974 capital improvements for Service Area 9 at the HEW Building, 330 Independence SW, on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

## ADAMS-MORGAN

■ **BUDGET HEARING:** There will be a workshop on proposed fiscal year 1974 capital improvements for Service Area 7 at All Souls Church, 16th & Harvard NW on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

■ **CAVETT EMPLOYER:** WMAL-TV, the ABC affiliate in Washington has launched a campaign to save the Dick Cavett show. Channel 7 manager Thomas B. Cookerly has said that ABC-TV gives considerable weight to viewer's letters and has urged viewers who wish Cavett to remain to write to: Save Dick Cavett, WMAL TV, Box 311, Washington, D.C. 20044. Cookerly said he will personally deliver the mail to ABC-TV in New York.

■ **CHILD CARE DIRECTORY:** The Altrusa Club of Washington recently prepared a booklet listing local public, private, and government-assisted child care programs. The listing, including only licensed centers, was produced with the assistance of a grant from HEW. Funds are still needed to produce copies for the entire area, as only 5,000 copies were printed initially. Call the Community Coordinated Child Care program at 232-1287 for a copy of the listing, or to provide funds.

■ **AVOIDING RIP-OFFS:** The DC metro police department, in cooperation with Sears Roebuck and the Exchange Club of Washington has set up

a community service at local police stations to help citizens recover stolen property, and perhaps deter criminals from stealing.

The program involves property owners borrowing from the police an engraving tool with which to etch the owner's Social Security Number on the property.

Stickers are then placed in appropriate places to forewarn potential thieves that valuable property on the premises is marked, and easily identifiable by the police.

A record is then made by the owner of the property marked, serial numbers and other identifying marks, and the location of the etching on the property, for use by the police in determining ownership of recovered stolen property. Info: any local police station.

■ **SICKLE CELL FILM:** The DC Public Library is offering a film entitled: "Sickle Cell Disease: Paradox of Neglect." The film distributed free of charge, is available by calling 628-6776. Pamphlets concerning the disease are obtainable from all public libraries.

■ **BLACK BOX:** Many people are wary of black boxes. There is a new black box available to the public, however, that may prove more surprising than dangerous. It's a new literary magazine, published entirely on cassette tapes, and furnished in a black box.

Black Box, the magazine's name, is striving to present poetry to the people in the manner it should be presented, as sound. Published bi-monthly, at \$6 a year, the magazine also hopes to integrate black and white poetry. In the past, according to the magazine's editors, blacks have not read white poetry and whites have not read black poetry.

The publisher is The New Classroom, an offshoot of the Institute for Policy Studies, in DC. Info: Alan Austin 244-2599.

■ **DRUG EXHIBITION:** "Drugs: A Special Exhibition" will be on view at the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building through December 31. Info: 381-5911; group tours contact the School Tours Unit, 381-6471.

## SUFFRAGE BIRTHDAY

**WOMEN'S WEEK:** The National Capital Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women has announced the celebration of the 52nd anniversary of women's suffrage for the week of August 20-26.

The week's activities are intended to focus attention on the Equal Rights Amendment, now in the process of ratification, and general societal discrimination against women.

Concluding the week of activities will be a Women's Fair which will take place at the President's Park at 15th and E NW, east of the Ellipse. The fair will include exhibitions of the work of local women artists, karate demonstrations, skits dealing with major issues involving women, and displays of women's literature. For information call 783-3539.

■ **NEW MAGAZINE:** Place is a new counter-culture magazine. Issued every three months, Place will strive to evoke a sense of "place" in the essays, fiction, guides, and photography that will be in each issue. The magazine is published in two large (216) pages issues, alternating with two small (144) pages issues in a 9 X 12 inch format. Place is available from its editorial offices: 855 High Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301, for \$8 a year.

## FREE SKETCHING CLASSES

FREE sketching lessons for all ages are offered each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Art Barn in Rock Creek Park.

Livleen Singh of the Corcoran School of Art is instructor for the informal classes, held outdoors at the Art Barn at Beach Drive and Tilden Street in Rock Creek Park.

The sketching sessions, co-sponsored by the Associates of Artists Equity and the National Park Service, will be held each Saturday throughout the summer.

There is no registration but participants are asked to furnish their own art supplies.

## Summer schedule

THE GAZETTE is now on its summer publishing schedule, with one issue per month. Regular biweekly publication will resume with the September 13 issue. In addition, the 1972 Community Action Guide will be mailed to all subscribers in late August.

# CLASSIFIEDS

RATES: Commercial: 10¢ a word  
Non-commercial: Free

SEND ADS TO GAZETTE  
109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Cheverly, Md. Fine old House, 1.4 acres organic homestead, 4 or 5 bedrooms, fireplace, large kitchen, 1-car garage. \$33,000. 322-3479.

"LICK DICK IN '72" bumperstickers - 50¢ from S-T Mail Order, 3136 Braeburn Circle, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

## SERVICES

MOVING, HAULING, DELIVERY SERVICES at honest rates. Trash removal, furniture pick-up. Free estimates. References. Rabid Transit System. 979-3337, anytime.

ELECTRONIC STENCILS: The Gazette makes electronic mimeograph stencils. \$3.25 each for commercial firms, \$2.50 each for non-profit groups.

UPHOLSTERY, draperies, slipcovers. Unlimited fabric selection. Our own work rooms. Free estimates in your home. Convenient payment plan available. Smith-Mars Ltd. 5010 Connecticut Avenue, NW. 362-3551.



## JOBS WANTED

WARM, COMPETENT WOMAN available to babysit/lt. housework a few days a week in Cap. Hill area. 546-3989.

## EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR CHANGE, Box 3528, DC 20007 (234-0055). Umbrella group for boycott clearinghouse publication, educational gaming work, community health advisory group, community legal education seminars.

ALTERNATIVE PRE-SCHOOL, N. Arl. Mon.-Fri. 9-1. 2-5 yr. old. Large garden & dble. back yard. Need teacher for fall and reg. vols. willing to spend at least 2 am's a wk. with us. If interested for yourself or child, call 524-6092, 522-5775, 684-8508.

CHILDREN'S FREE COMMUNITY, in DC, beginning 2nd yr. Has space in Sept. for kids 4 1/2 to 8. Place of their own for kids to play/work/learn. Tuition based on income. Walter at 332-7320.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

**POTTERY CLASSES**  
NEW STUDIO NOW OPEN ON 8TH ST. SE  
Classes are forming 8 week sessions  
543-9152  
WORDEN ROBINSON ART POTTERY  
SALES: WHEELS-KILNS  
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## MISC

WANTED: Used 3-speed bike. Cheap. RE 7-6212.

HOUSE TO SHARE: We would like to meet young professionals (any sex & marital status) who would be interested in working out an alternative life style in a large Embassy house. Call 332-0942.

YOUNG HANDSOME guy in prison, age 29, w/brwn. hair, blue eyes, 6' tall, 185 lbs. Very lonely and would like to correspond w/all chicks. Please, chicks only. I will answer all letters. Dennis Parrott, Box 69, 129709, London, Ohio 41340.

CAMP NEWS is national monthly newspaper for the GI movement. \$3/yr. \$1 for GIs. Chicago Area Military Project, 2801 N. Sheffield, Chicago, Ill. 60657.

GIVEAWAYS: 5 adorable kittens, box trained & healthy. 337-8580 after 6 p.m.

WASHINGTON RECYCLING CENTER, located Rock Creek Recreation Center off Military Rd. NW. Sat. 10-3 p.m. Sun. 12-3 p.m. Recycle: aluminum, newspaper, bottles & most scrap paper. Volunteers needed. 833-1778.



# THE McDOWELL PAPERS

CHARLES McDOWELL JR.

MIAMI BEACH - The reformed rules of the Democratic party, as they revealed themselves in operation at the first reformed national convention, can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Ohio shall pass
- (2) A majority of the convention shall be 1,509 except in the case of the California challenge when it shall be 1,433, provided that the 151 McGovern delegates under challenge may be entered upon the temporary roll of the waiting line at the Fountainebleau Hotel coffee shop so long as they do not order lettuce on their sandwiches.
- (3) Each delegation shall contain a reasonable approximation of a fair proportion of women, youth, blacks, Chicanos, Latinos and at least one person clever enough to come up with a really funny vote for vice president.
- (4) The Rhode Island delegation shall cast its votes in 15-22nds of a vote to demonstrate its full participation in an open convention and to take more time.
- (5) The test vote on the South Carolina challenge shall be lost intentionally so as to (a) assure victory on the California point of order and (b) preoccupy the pundits for the next couple of days with the formulation of nonlucid explanations of how it worked, whatever it was.
- (6) Provided, with respect to Rule 5 above, that the reform commission shall have the power to prescribe in the future that any faction planning to lose a test vote on purpose shall supply written notification three hours in advance to Walter Cronkite and John Chancellor.
- (7) If there is any danger that the acceptance speech of the nominee for president of the United States shall occur in television prime time or, for that matter, prior to 3 a.m. Eastern daylight time, no fewer than 18 members of the convention shall make speeches nominating and seconding candidates for vice president, no fewer than two of who shall be known only to their mothers.
- (8) Provided, with respect to Rule 7 above, that if there is still danger of introducing the presidential nominee while more than one-fifteenth of the television audience is awake, the convention shall devote an additional hour and one-half to a vice presidential roll call on which votes shall be announced for Rodger Mudd, Archie Bunker, Ms. Eleanor McGovern and other names that reflect the convention's unreformed perspective on the American vice presidency.
- (9) Ohio shall pass again.
- (10) John Kenneth Gailbraith shall dance in the aisle.
- (11) At any time when the security forces outside the convention hall outnumber the potential demonstrators by more than 10 to one the National Guardsmen may play Frisbee in the yard of the nearby high school and half of the undercover agents among the Yuppies may take the little radio wires out of their ears.
- (12) The vice presidential candidate, who shall be chosen in open caucus in a telephone booth, and who shall be informed of his selection prior to the time when the convention is informed, shall be a Roman Catholic and a good sport.
- (13) Ohio shall eventually vote.

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

## LETTERS CONT'D

It is time the community become aware of the monsters they are creating through the idiom of Lock-M-Up - And-Keep-M-There. This won't work. So creativity must be engendered to aid those of us who feel as though the whole world is against us. There's a mass migratory movement of ex-cons from one locale to another to escape the pressure of being an ex-con, to regain his or her identity as an anonymous person.

As members of the community, you as responsible citizens are responsible for it. Evading your responsibility is something you can no longer

do. You must become involved and discontinue to be marginal.

The erecting of more prisons is not the answer. These same millions of dollars can be rechanneled to bring about understanding and oneness with the community and the prisons. It is from the community we came and to the community we will return.

ERNEST HARRIED  
Lifers for Prison  
Reform, Inc.

## Abortion ads

MAY I respectfully request that The DC Gazette would be doing the community a greater service if instead of publishing a paid ad from a commercial abortion referral organization, you personally check the local clinics and hospitals and publish your own list with phone numbers and detailed information as a public service.

It should not be necessary for a woman to pay either directly or indirectly for a referring service. The same service is performed free of charge, often with medical services included, at the D.C. Health Clinics, various free clinics and Planned Parenthood to name only a few non-profit sources. You might also note some abortion clinics accept Maryland, Virginia and D.C. Medicaid patients.

The cost of an abortion in the Washington area ranges from nothing to \$150.00 (depending on personal resources) for vacuum aspiration and slightly higher for longer pregnancies in hospital facilities.

The Metropolitan woman seeking an abortion does not need to go through commercial organizations to get safe and reasonably priced procedures.

ANN MORTON

## Saving Rock Creek

WE are deeply concerned about the continuing degradation of Rock Creek Park and the quality of water in Rock Creek. We feel it is particularly noteworthy that little is being done to protect a small stream in the center of the nation's capital - a stream whose banks are almost completely government owned. We feel this should be brought to the public's attention.

The Potomac Chapter of the Sierra Club urges the appropriate governmental agencies to take the following steps for the Park's protection:

- 1) All areas not now used for a specific recreational purpose should be immediately returned to their natural state. No new areas should be removed from their natural state.
- 2) Rock Creek and all of its tributaries should be brought under direct governmental control. All chenalization, dams, and other artificial water management procedures should be prohibited within the Rock Creek basin.
- 3) A ten year program should be established to end the pollution of Rock Creek. This should include the provision of sufficient sanitary sewer facilities to absolutely protect against overflows, the prevention of siltation at its source, and the removal of oil from storm water runoff. All this should be done without degrading the natural beauty of the area.
- 4) No new roads should be built through Rock Creek Park.

CHARLES GELLERT  
ROCK CREEK PROJECT  
POTOMAC CHAPTER,  
SIERRA CLUB

## GRINER CONT'D

Federal workers are forbidden to strike - but so were all workers until they went ahead and struck. Federal workers aren't going to be given the right to strike either. They will have to take it. Griner's chief function is to keep his union members from striking. It's a typical company union swapoff. The union boss keeps the members in line for a few considerations from management.

Griner has used his position to make a cozy spot for himself as he works hand in glove

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE GAZETTE

with the administrators to hold the workers in check. AFGE members are in effect financing their own sellout with the \$5.7 million in per capita tax they pay to the national office annually. For AFGE members to exercise any power they have to struggle not only against the administration bureaucrats but also against the union bosses like Griner. They have to first get hold of their own union.

If unions are so bad, why belong to them? The fact is that almost the only power working people have is around their work. And they have this power only if they join together with other workers in unions.

Should federal workers give up on AFGE and try some other union? The fact is that the top management of all the unions is pretty much the same. I don't think there is much to be gained by progressive unionists banding together in one union and leaving all the other unions to sell-out union management. Unionists must fight for rank-and-file control of whatever union they find themselves in. This means for most federal workers the AFGE.

## TAX CONT'D

rule - rather than one little concession," Meyers stressed.

The property tax situation in the District is in for reform. Rackham is content that his office is working as efficiently, and fairly, as possible, but there still appear to be a large number of inconsistencies in the workings of the office. Meyers is as strongly convinced that property tax can be improved, providing relief for the poor and elderly, and more even tax payments in developed areas for those property owners holding vacant land.

Rackham may be right - his office may be working at its maximum efficiency and his assessors may be the most honest people in the business - but those features make it difficult to account for the inconsistencies and confusing results in the Gazette survey.

Meyers says he will call for hearings in two months on the current tax situation and the possibility of reforms being instituted. It remains to be seen, however, whether the council and the Commissioner can agree on a means of improving the property tax in the District.

## What every old democrat should know about the new democrat.

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